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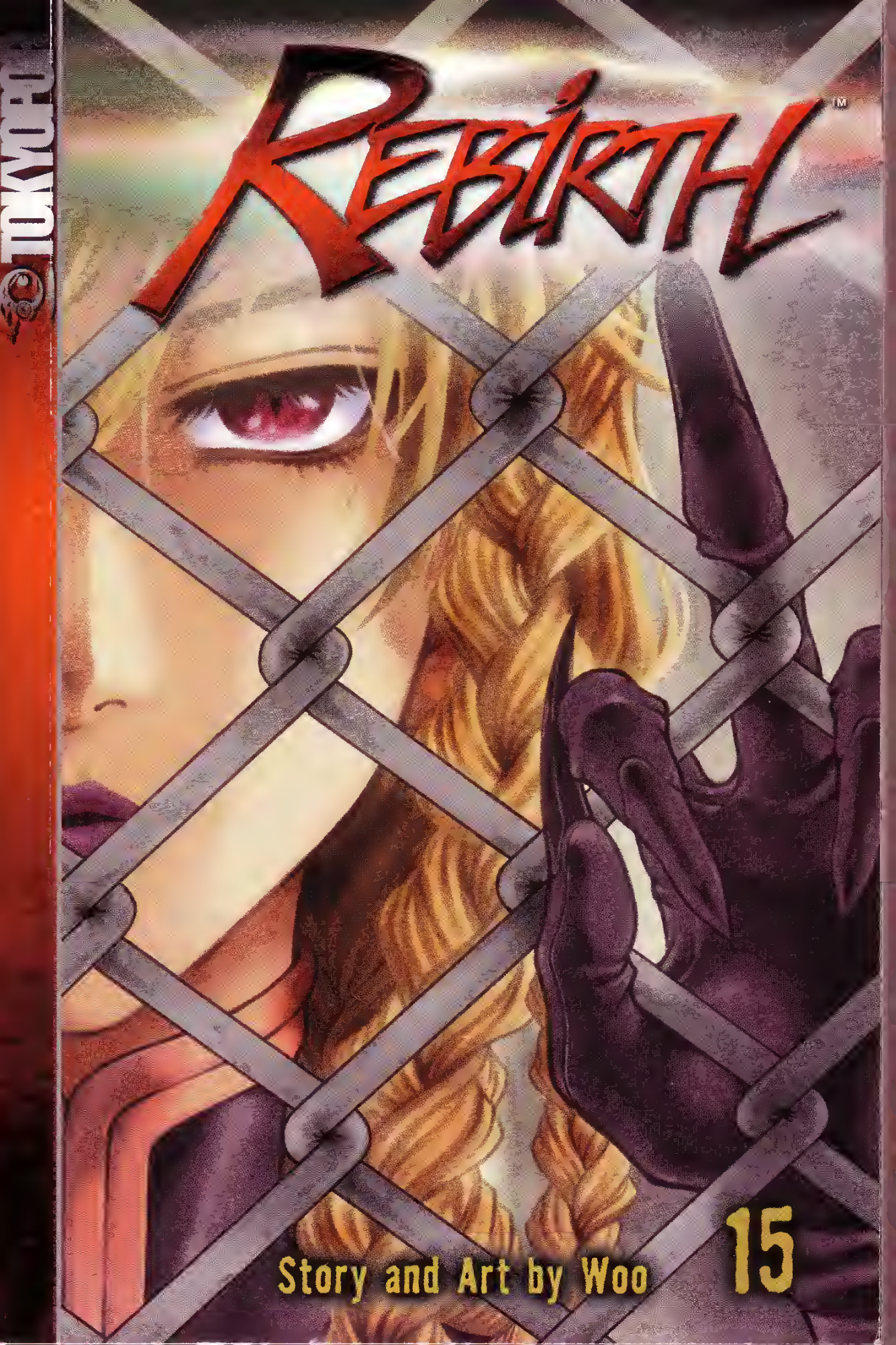
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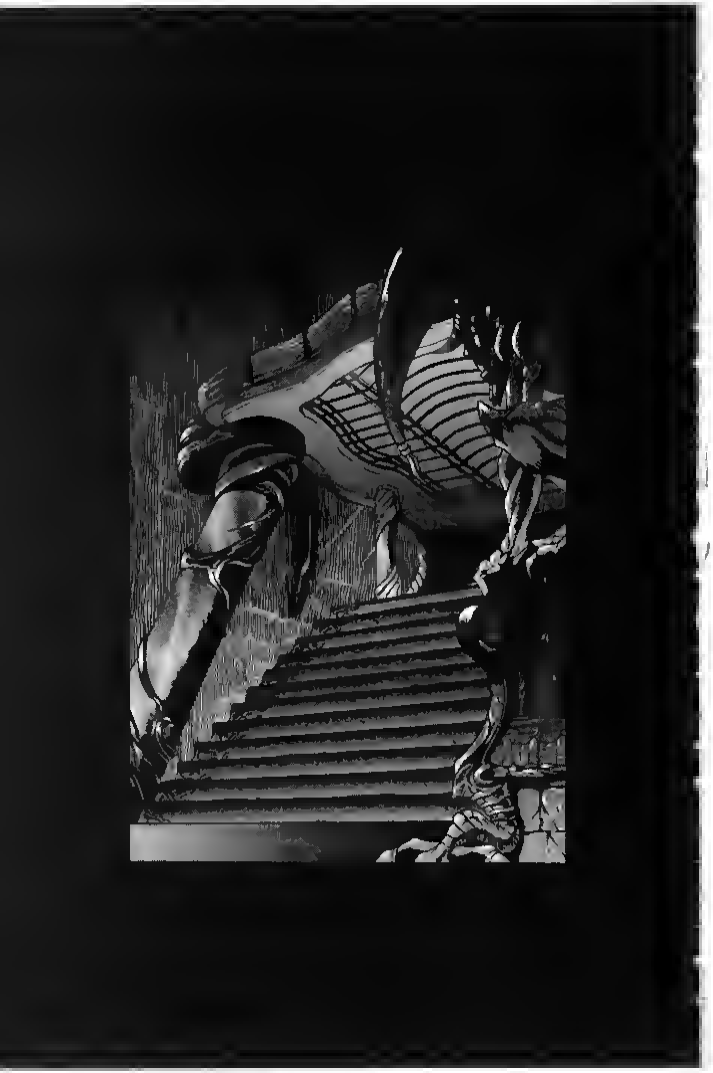

REBIRTH

VOLUME 15

STORY AND ART BY
WOO

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Rebirth Vol. 15
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STORY THUS FAR

After a disastrous confrontation between Reit and Berzur against the sinister Mr. Grey, Deshonat engages the aspiring Lord of the Vampires in battle. It results in a virtual stalemate. Finally convinced that he is in need of further training, Deshonat agrees to accept the tutelage of the crafty Draistail. At first, Deshonat resists Draistail's seemingly nonsensical training methods but soon begins to tap into his own latent power and ability. Deshonat will need all the preparation he can achieve, as the Vampire Lord Tournament is about to begin, and he may have to face off against an opponent he could have never predicted... the Vampire, Millenear Shephild.

DESHWITAT

He is on a blood-quest for revenge against a man he once called "friend."

RETT

Desh's most trusted and fearsome ally. He was cursed with immortality.

MILLENEAR

Captured by Mr. Grey, she has been transformed into a vampire.

REMI

Her father's blood revived Deshwitat, whom she must now reluctantly help.

BERYUN

An artificially created life form. Her still waters run deep and deadly.

EIJI

The rambunctious young Japanese ninja assigned to assist Desh's team.

MASTER TAE

LEADER OF A BUDDHIST SECT, SHE BELIEVES DESHWITAT MAY BE HUMANITY'S SAVIOR.

DRAISTAIL

A CAGEY, OLD VAMPIRE WHO INSISTS DESHWITAT LEARN VAMPIRE FIGHTING TECHNIQUES

MR GREY

THE VILLAINOUS, WOULD-BE KING OF ALL VAMPIRES, HE NOW HOLDS MILLENEAR CAPTIVE.

KALUTIKA

DESHWITAT'S BETRAYER, HE IS A GOD-LIKE BEING BENT ON THE DESTRUCTION OF MANKIND.

REBIRTH

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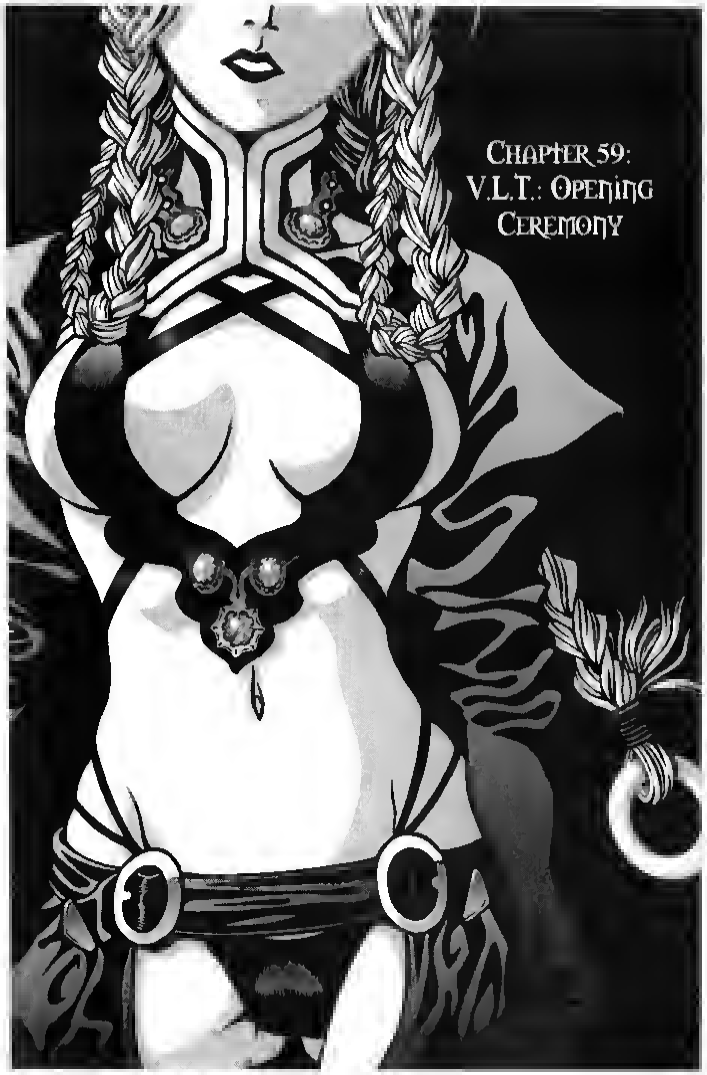
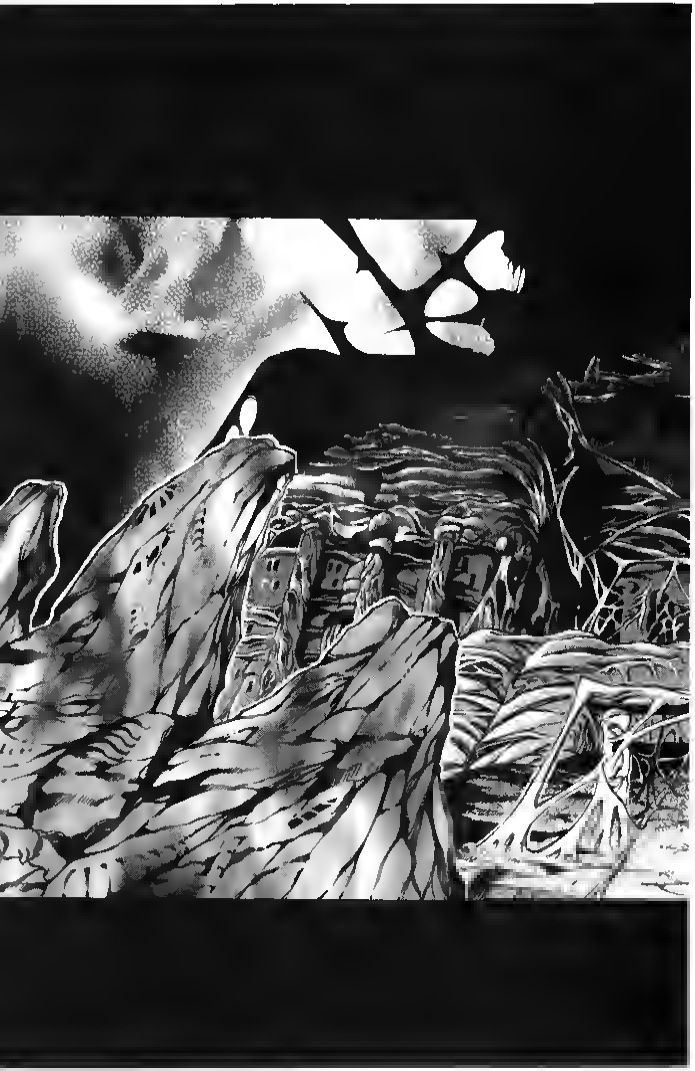
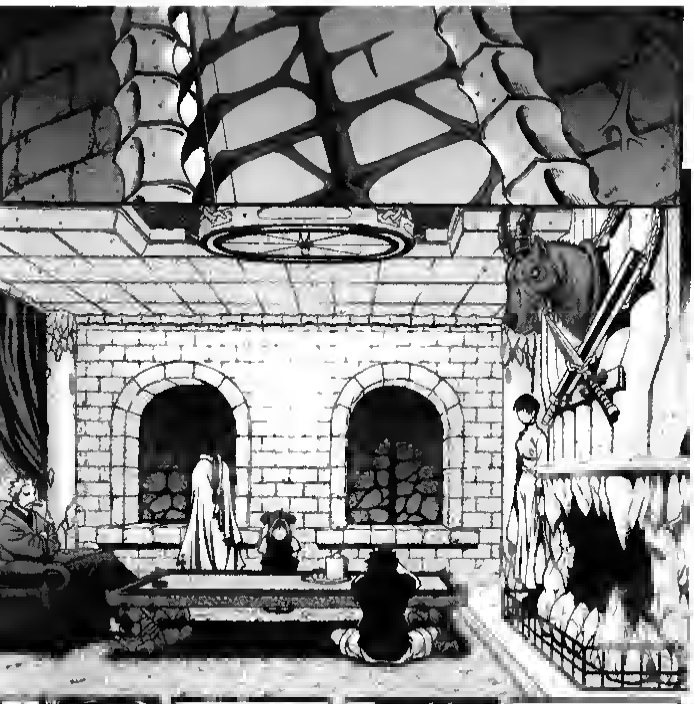






THIS IS CRAZY!
THIS--THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
MILLENEAR! OUR MILLENEAR... A STINKIN' VAMPIRE?!
CAREFUL, CHILD I DON'T LIKE YOUR TONE
I'LL NOT HAVE YOU SLANDER MY KIND
AND IS IT REALLY SUCH A BAD THING, AFTER ALL? SHE WAS SO WEAK BEFORE...
IF SHE CAN OVERCOME GREY'S INFLUENCE, SHE'LL BE OF MORE USE TO US
!!!
HMM...?

YOU EVIL BASTARD!

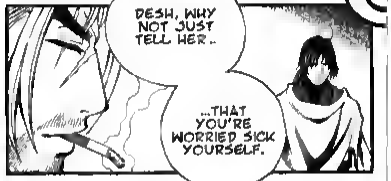
YOU SOULLESS MONSTER!! HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE THAT?!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT LATELY, BUT YOU-- YOU--!

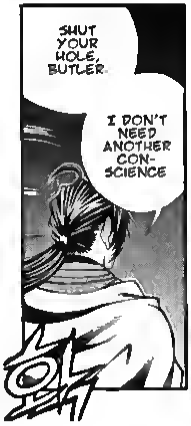
AND TO THINK THAT MILLENEAR...
BUT YOU- HOW COULD SHE--?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, GIRL?

OHHH

AHH! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!


DESH, WHY NOT JUST TELL HER..
...THAT YOU'RE WORRIED SICK YOURSELF.

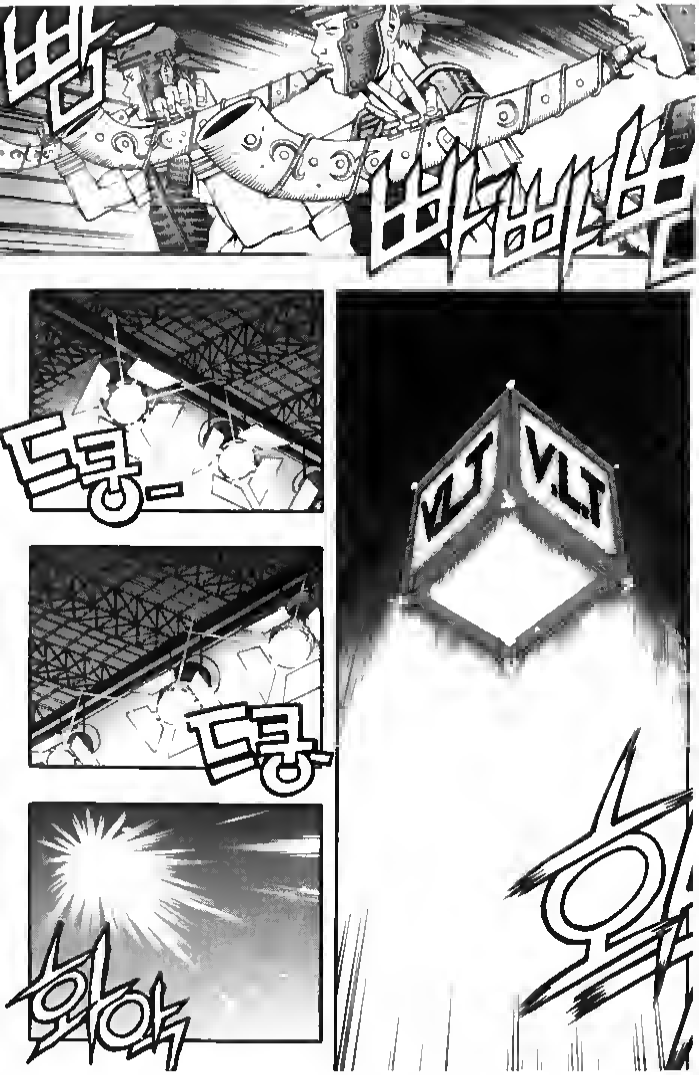

SHUT YOUR HOLE, BUTLER.
I DON'T NEED ANOTHER CON-SCIENCE

THAT'S A BAD HABIT YOU'VE GOT, DESH.
LETTIN' YOUR HEART AND YOUR MOUTH GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

LET'S LEAVE MY HEART OUT OF THIS FOR NOW
BUT WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS..
...WHAT METHOD GREY USED TO TURN MILLENEAR INTO A VAMPIRE!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT METHOD"?
OBVIOUSLY, HE INFECTED HER BLOOD WHEN HE BIT HER, RIGHT?

TRUE THAT'S USUALLY THE CASE
BUT AS YOU KNOW, RETT, IF SOMEONE ISN'T BORN A VAMPIRE, BUT RATHER TURNED INTO ONE, THEY NO LONGER RETAIN INDEPENDENT THOUGHT
THEY'RE CLOSER TO A ZOMBIE, CRAVING BLOOD WITHOUT REASON OR INTELLECT

BUT MILLENEAR WAS FAR FROM A SHAMBLING ZOMBIE...
FROM WHAT I KNOW, THERE IS NO METHOD FOR TURNING A HUMAN INTO A FULLY EVOLVED VAMPIRE
.....
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU SLUGS LAYIN' AROUND FOR? WE GOTTA GO!
WHILE IT'S CLEAR THAT SHE IS SOMEHOW UNDER GREY'S INFLUENCE, SHE STILL SEEMED TO POSSESS INDEPENDENT THOUGHT
HOW... THEN, WAS GREY ABLE TO TRANSFORM MILLENEAR INTO THE CREATURE WE SAW?
THE V.L.T. OPENING CEREMONY IS ABOUT TO START!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드르-
드르-
VJ VLJ
와아아

GLORIOUS CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT!
MY NAME IS MISTRESS ISABEL, YOUR EMCEE!
WE ARE HERE FOR A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF BLOOD!
EVERY 100 YEARS WE CHOOSE ONE WHO WILL LEAD US FOR THE NEXT 100!
NOW IT HAS ARRIVED! THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
AND NOWWWW...

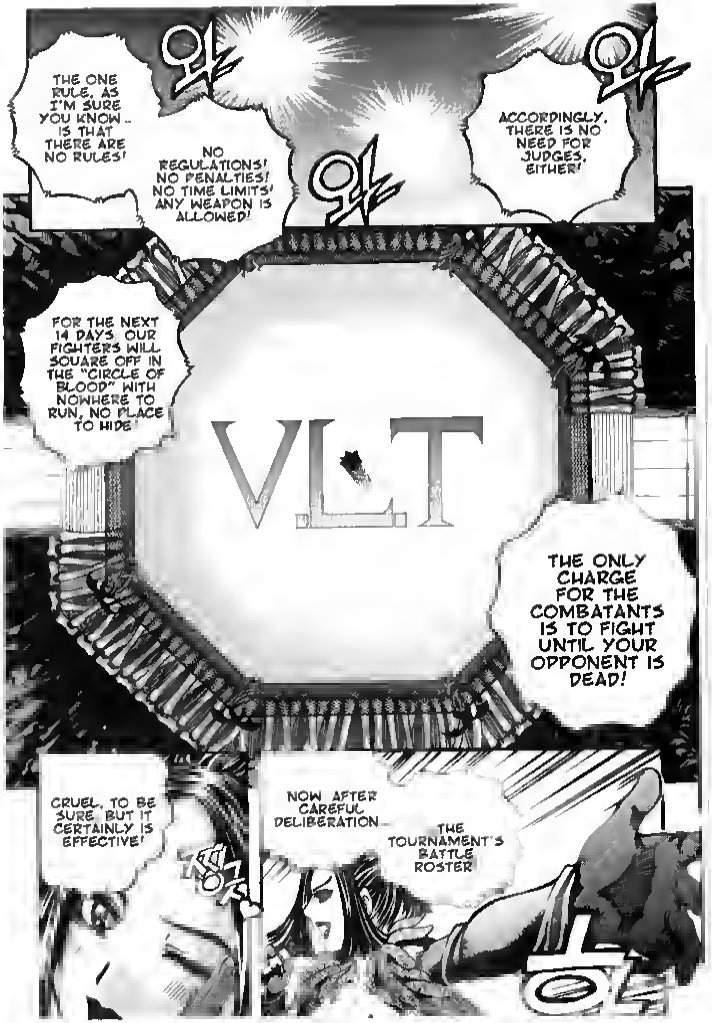
...LET THE VAMPIRE LORD TOURNAMENT BEGIN!

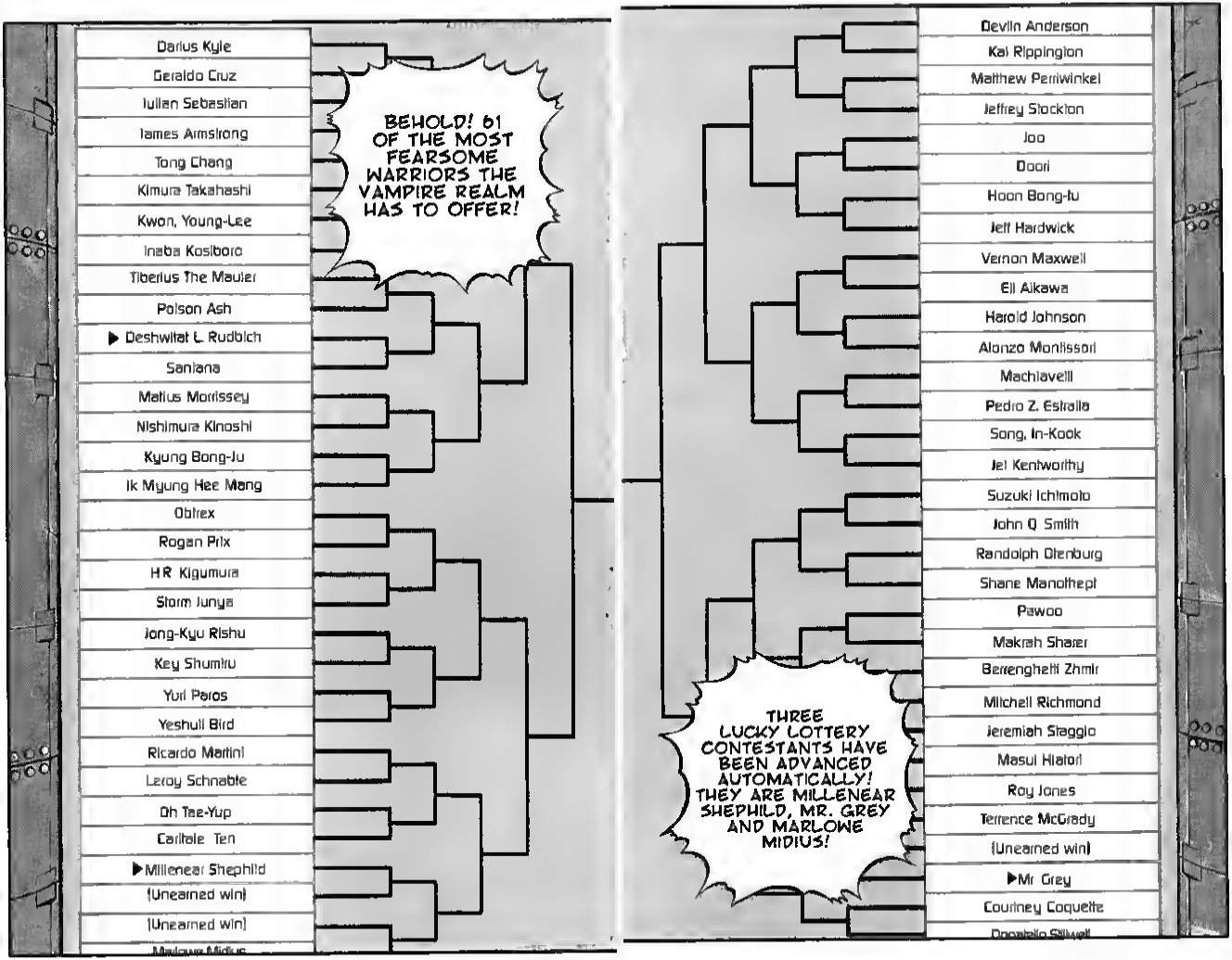
LET'S WELCOME OUR 81 BRAVE CONTESTANTS!
I PREDICT THAT THE SKILL OF THESE ELITE VAMPIRE WARRIORS WILL ASTOUND US ALL!

UMM...THE MOOD SEEMS PRETTY LIGHT CONSIDERING THIS IS A DEATH MATCH...
GOOD POINT, KID.
WHAT CAN I SAY? THE V.L.T. IS ABOUT THE ONLY TIME OUR KIND CAN TRULY CUT LOOSE!

ALTHOUGH, I'D IMAGINE THE TOURNAMENT FIGHTERS AREN'T QUITE SO CAREFREE

AND NOW, FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR VALIANT CONTESTANTS..
...LET ME EXPLAIN THE RULES OF THE V.L.T.!


THE ONE RULE, AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW... IS THAT THERE ARE NO RULES!
NO REGULATIONS! NO PENALTIES! NO TIME LIMITS! ANY WEAPON IS ALLOWED!
ACCORDINGLY, THERE IS NO NEED FOR JUDGES, EITHER!
FOR THE NEXT 14 DAYS, OUR FIGHTERS WILL SQUARE OFF IN THE "CIRCLE OF BLOOD" WITH NOWHERE TO RUN, NO PLACE TO HIDE!
V.L.T
THE ONLY CHARGE FOR THE COMBATANTS IS TO FIGHT UNTIL YOUR OPPONENT IS DEAD!
CRUEL, TO BE SURE, BUT IT CERTAINLY IS EFFECTIVE!
NOW AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION... THE TOURNAMENT'S BATTLE ROSTER!


Darius Kyle
Geraldo Cruz
Iulian Sebastian
James Armstrong
Tong Chang
Kimura Takahashi
Kwon, Young-Lee
Inaba Kosiboro
Tiberius The Mauler
Poison Ash
▶ Deshwitat L. Rudbich
Santana
Marius Morrissey
Nishimura Kinoshi
Kyung Bong-Ju
Ik Myung Hee Mang
Obitex
Rogan Prix
H.R. Kigumura
Storm Junya
Jong-Kyu Rishu
Key Shumiru
Yuri Peros
Yeshuil Bird
Ricardo Martini
Leroy Schnable
Oh Tae-Yup
Carltale Ten
▶Millenear Shephild
(Unearned win)
(Unearned win)
Marlowe Midius
BEHOLD! 61 OF THE MOST FEARSOME WARRIORS THE VAMPIRE REALM HAS TO OFFER!
Devlin Anderson
Kai Rippington
Matthew Periwinkel
Jeffrey Stockton
Joo
Doori
Hoon Bong-Ju
Jeff Hardwick
Vernon Maxwell
Eli Aikawa
Harold Johnson
Alonzo Montissori
Machiavelli
Pedro Z. Estrella
Song, In-Kook
Jel Kentworthy
Suzuki Ichimoto
John Q. Smith
Randolph Olenburg
Shane Manolhepl
Pawoo
Makrah Shaser
Berrenghetti Zhmir
Mitchell Richmond
Jeremiah Staggio
Masui Hiatori
Roy Jones
Terrence McGrady
(Unearned win)
▶Mr. Grey
Courtney Coquette
Oswaldo Stilwell
THREE LUCKY LOTTERY CONTESTANTS HAVE BEEN ADVANCED AUTOMATICALLY! THEY ARE MILLENEAR SHEPHILD, MR. GREY AND MARLOWE MIDIUS!

Competitors' Waiting Room
ATTENTION! THE TOURNAMENT WILL OFFICIALLY BEGIN IN 10 MINUTES
COMPETITORS! IF YOUR BOUT IS COMING UP, PLEASE PREPARE YOURSELVES!
TO ALL 81 OF YOU...GOOD LUCK--AND SPILL SOME BLOOD!

WE MEET AGAIN, MILLENEAR
SO, HOW IS THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF A VAMPIRE?

.....
INTERESTING NEW FASHION SENSE
VAMPIRISM SEEMS TO HAVE LOOSENED YOUR INHIBITIONS

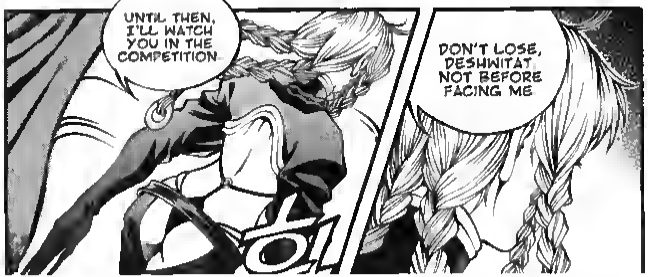
REM SAYS I'M A SOULLESS MONSTER BECAUSE I DON'T SEEM TO BE CONCERNED
IN A WAY, SHE'S RIGHT. I'M NOT TERRIBLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU
REGARDLESS OF HOW GREY TURNED YOU, ONCE I KILL THE BASTARD YOU'LL RETURN TO HUMAN FORM
AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, MILLENEAR, I WILL KILL GREY
SO FOR NOW, TRY TO ENJOY BEING A VAMPIRE FOR A LITTLE WHILE
YOU'LL BE HUMAN AGAIN SOON ENOUGH

SO FOR NOW...
..TRY TO ENJOY BEING A VAMPIRE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
YOU'LL BE HUMAN AGAIN SOON ENOUGH.
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!
.....
SIGH...
MAKE ME HUMAN AGAIN, EH?
IT'S FUNNY.. YOU SOUND SO CHIVALROUS
WHA--?!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, DESHWITAT.
I LIKE MYSELF MUCH BETTER THIS WAY..
AS A VAMPIRE, I'M STRONGER.. MORE BEAUTIFUL..
DESHWITAT.. I WILL KILL YOU WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS.

WHEN I DO THAT, YOU WILL BE MINE AND NO ONE ELSE'S.

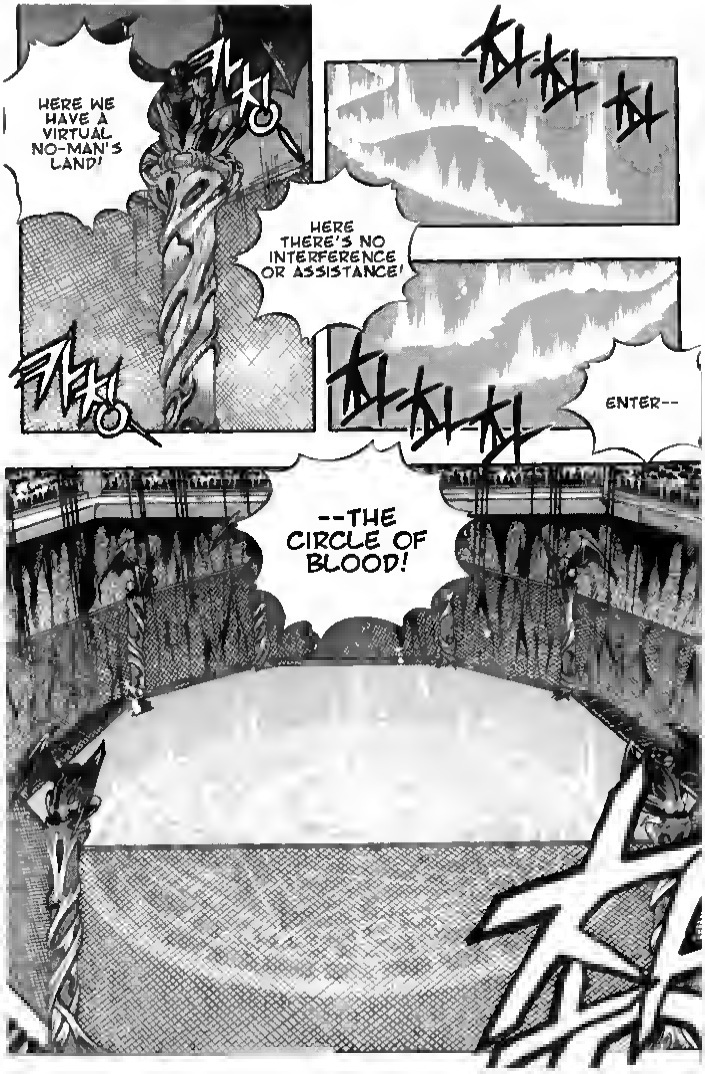
100 YEARS... OR 1,000 YEARS, LIVING ONLY IN MY HEART...
BECAUSE...

...I LOVE YOU.


UNTIL THEN, I'LL WATCH YOU IN THE COMPETITION.
DON'T LOSE, DESHWITAT NOT BEFORE FACING ME.

I WON'T...

ALL RIGHT, MY TOOTHSOME FRIENDS--ARE YOU READY?!
CAUSE IT'S TIME FOR ROUND ONE OF THE V.L.T.!
WHOO!
C'MON! LET'S GO!!
HEY! WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?!


HERE WE HAVE A VIRTUAL NO-MAN'S LAND!
HERE THERE'S NO INTERFERENCE OR ASSISTANCE!
ENTER--
--THE CIRCLE OF BLOOD!

WHAT'S THAT? A FORCE FIELD...?
OF A SORT. IT SHIELDS THE ARENA FROM ANY AND ALL OUTSIDE ENERGIES.
THEY SAY THE V.L.T. HAS NO RULES, BUT THERE IS ONE...
YOU FIGHT ONLY WITH WHAT YOU BRING TO THE CIRCLE.
AT THE LAST V.L.T. THERE WAS A GROUP THAT ADVANCED THROUGH THE TOURNAMENT WITH THE HELP OF OUTSIDE MAGIC
THEY WERE, OF COURSE, DISCOVERED AND EXECUTED
SINCE THEN, THEY'VE CREATED THIS ARENA.
ALMOST ANY ENERGY THAT CROSSES ITS THRESHOLD IS DISSIPATED.
"ALMOST," YOU SAY?
YUP...
—ALMOST.

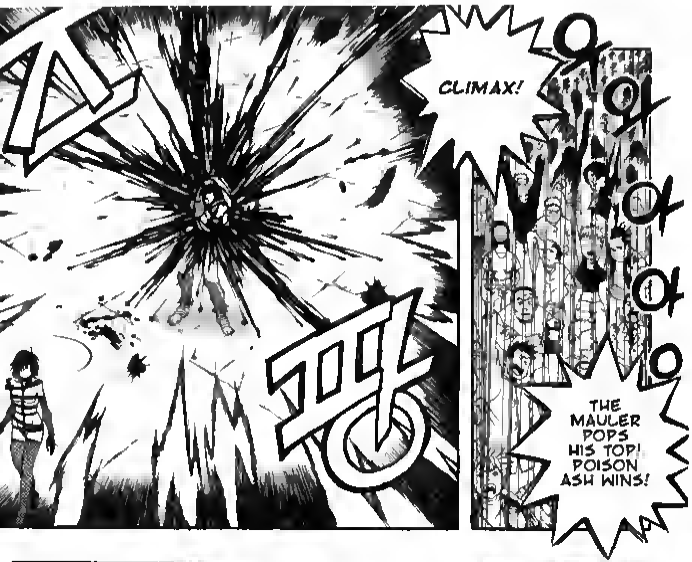
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OUR FIRST TWO COMPETITORS!
ON THE LEFT, WE HAVE POISON ASH! HER SPECIALTIES ARE CLOSE-QUARTERS ATTACKS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE!
TO THE RIGHT, WE HAVE TIBERIUS THE MAULER! HIS WEAPON OF CHOICE IS AN IRON BALL AND CHAIN FOR LONG DISTANCE ATTACKS!
WARRIORS... PREPARE YOURSELVES!!

KILL, KILL!
WE WANT BLOOD!
GO!
BLOOD!

ON THE BOARD, CARNAGE CRAVERS, YOU WILL SEE THE ENERGY LEVELS OF OUR COMBATANTS!
POISON ASH
114 PT
208 PT
MAULER
WE'RE OFF TO AN IMPRESSIVE START! WITH ENERGY LEVELS OF 114 TO 208, IT LOOKS LIKE THE MAULER HAS TAKEN THE LEAD!
HUH.. THAT'S CONVENIENT YOU'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE, RIGHT?
YEAH, IT'S SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN THE ARENA, BUT--
BUT--
--THESE ARE JUST NUMBERS, FOLKS! WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN!
THESE ENERGY LEVELS ARE MERELY INDICATORS!
AH-HA! WITNESS POISON ASH'S SUPER-SPEED ATTACK!

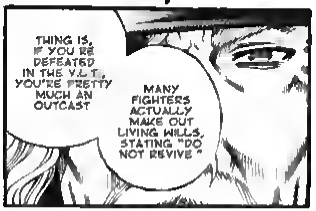
BUT HERE COMES THE MAULER, ANSWERING WITH THE BALL AND CHAIN!
ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAM, DESHWITAT'S FIRST ROUND IS AFTER THIS ONE
AND WHOEVER WINS THIS BOUT WILL BE HIS NEXT OPPONENT.
WE'VE GOT TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FIGHTING STYLES HERE!
BOTH JOCKEYING FOR A POSITION THAT GIVES THEM THE ADVANTAGE!
ASSUMING HE WINS, THAT IS.
THE GUY'S FIGHTING SMART FOR SUCH A GORILLA.
BERYUN, WHEN'S DESH COMING UP?
HEY! BROTHER DESH IS GOING ALL THE WAY!
WE'LL SEE, BOY.

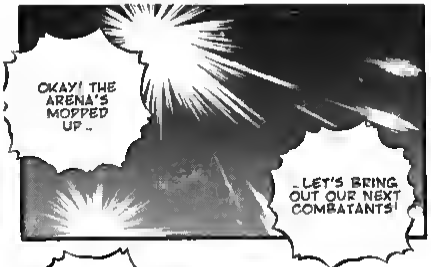
WHOA! WITH AMAZING SPEED, POISON ASH GETS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!
POISON KISS!
EROTIC MAGIC! SHE'S TURNING UP THE HEAT!
BUT IS IT HOT ENOUGH?!
SWEEE Doom ~
CLOSE YOUR EYES NEXT TIME YOU KISS, FOOL!
URK!
GAK!!
HE'S REALLY BLUSHING NOW, FOLKS!


CLIMAX!
THE MAULER POPS HIS TOP! POISON ASH WINS!

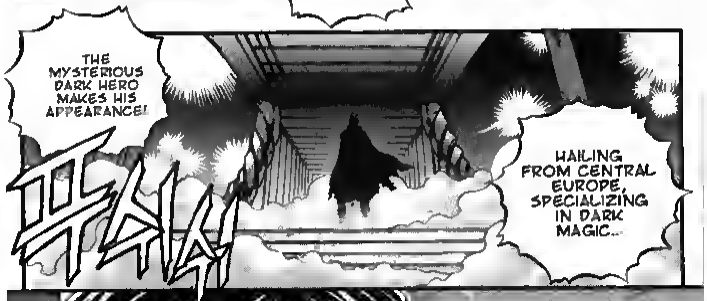
PHEW! THEY WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
THIS MAY LOOK LIKE SPORT, RETT, BUT THE STAKES ARE QUITE SERIOUS

A TRUE GAME OF DEATH
ALTHOUGH, IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT, THEY MAY BE ABLE TO REVIVE THE POOR BASTARD


THING IS, IF YOU RE DEFEATED IN THE V.L.T., YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH AN OUTCAST
MANY FIGHTERS ACTUALLY MAKE OUT LIVING WILLS, STATING "DO NOT REVIVE."


OKAY! THE ARENA'S MOPPED UP...
...LET'S BRING OUT OUR NEXT COMBATANTS!

THERE! THERE'S DESHWITAT!


THE MYSTERIOUS DARK HERO MAKES HIS APPEARANCE!
HAILING FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, SPECIALIZING IN DARK MAGIC...

...ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE-- DESHWITAT L. RUDBICH!!

Chapter 60:
Vampire Hunter

DESHWITAT L. RUDBICH!!
SPECULATION CONTINUES TO SWIRL AROUND THIS MYSTERIOUS VAMPIRE!
THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS OF AN APOCALYPTIC STRUGGLE!
SOME SAY HE MAY BE THE SAVIOR OF US ALL!
KYA! GO GET 'IM, BROTHER DESH!
KICK SOME ASS, RUDBICH!
COULD THERE BE ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMORS?
LET'S LET HIS SKILLS DO THE TALKING!

NOW WE'LL SEE JUST HOW FAR YOU'VE PROGRESSED SINCE LAST WE MET, DESHWITAT.
BECAUSE IF YOUR SKILLS HAVEN'T IMPROVED ...
YOU'LL BE DEAD IN MINUTES.
DESHWITAT WON'T LOSE NOT BEFORE FACING ME
HE WILL DIE BY MY HANDS
WOW! HE'S CUTE!
I'M ALL YOURS!!
OF COURSE HE WILL... SILLY MILLY.
AND NOW, MY VAMPIRE HORDES... ...LET'S MEET THE COMPETITION!
HE'S KNOWN AS "THE UNDERTAKER SANTANA!

LITTLE ELSE IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM, OTHER THAN HE HAILS FROM MEXICO.
BUT HE FINISHED FOURTH IN THE LAST VLT, SO HE'LL BE NO EASY MATCH!
BUT YOU PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE OF MY BABBLING, RIGHT?!
SO LET'S START BOUT TWO! DESHWITAT L. RUDBICH VS. SANTANA!
FWHH!

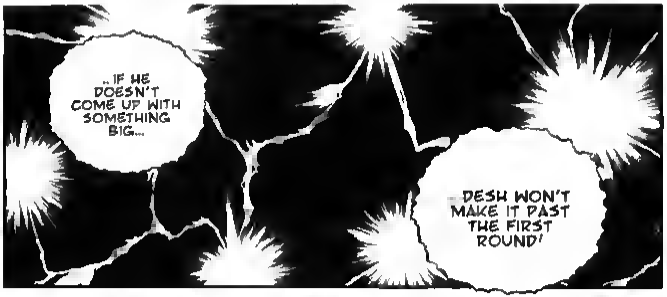
EXPLODING--
--FIST OF FIRE!
RUDBICH STARTS THE ROUND WITH A BANG!
HIS SPEED IS INCREDIBLE! ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW!

OH! I THINK WE'VE GOT A FIGHT HERE, KIDS!
NOW LET'S LOOK AT THEIR ENERGY POINTS.
...HUH...?
WHA--?!
NO WAY!
IS IT BROKEN..?
THAT CAN'T BE...
AWW, NO... DESH.

THAT'S..
14.8PT
14.8 POINTS?!
THAT'S NOT A MALFUNCTION! THE BOARD DOESN'T LIE!
D. RUDBICH
14.8PT
366.4PT
SANTANA
THAT'S A HUGE MARGIN, MY FRIENDS!
RUDBICH ONLY HAS 14.8 TO SANTANA'S 366.4 ENERGY POINTS!
BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE LETTING THAT BOTHER HIM A BIT!

LOOK AT RUDBICH RETURN WITH A FURIOUS BARRAGE OF PUNCHES!
OH, BUT SANTANA MAINTAINS HIS GRIM VISAGE!
IT SEEMS HE'S BARELY HURT! AND THAT'S WHERE THE POINTS COME INTO PLAY!

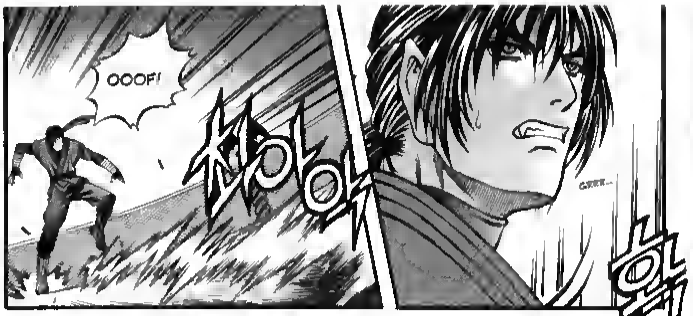
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PUT SANTANA ON HIS HEELS!!
DRAISTAIL.. WHAT'S UP WITH DESH'S LOW POINTS?
ONE THING THAT FOOL NEVER COULD LEARN WAS ENERGY CONTROL.
I WAS ONLY HALF-JOKING BEFORE, BUT..


...IF HE DOESN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING BIG...
...DESH WON'T MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST ROUND!

THREE MINUTES INTO THE BOUT! DESHWITAT IS ON THE ATTACK!
BUT THE POINTS ON THE BOARD TELL A DIFFERENT STORY!

THE GRINGA EMCEE IS RIGHT, KEED AND I'M GETTING BORED
LET'S GIVE THE CROWD SOME REAL ENTER-TAINMENT!
KID?

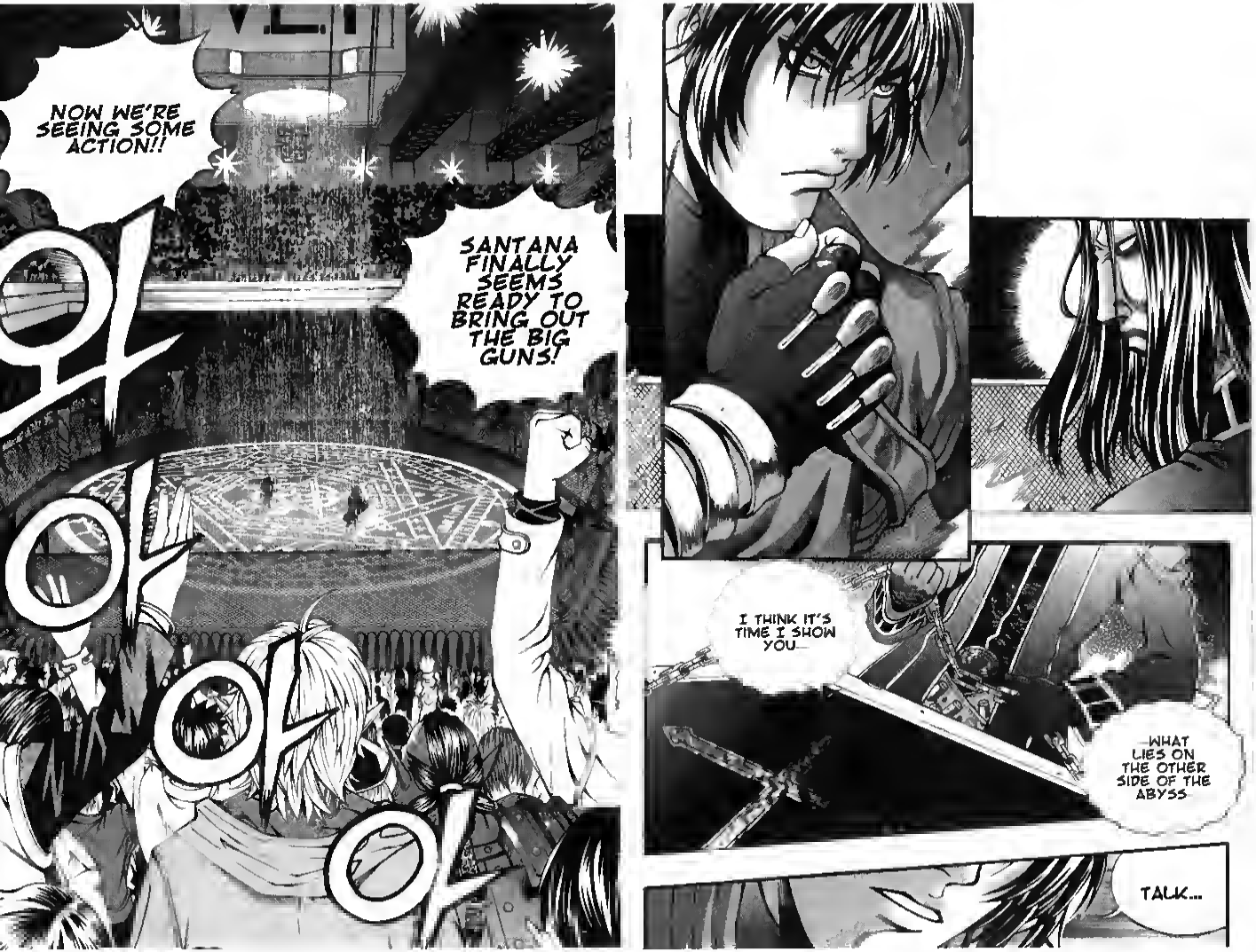
HARGH!!


OOOF!
GRRR...

I THINK IT'S TIME I SHOW YOU...
...WHAT LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ABYSS

THE VAMPIRE CHRONICLES
V.L.T. CAST OF CHARACTERS
Isabel Blen (152 years old)
This is her first year as the Vampire Lord Tournament's emcee. She is actually an incredibly popular lounge singer and proprietor of the trendy vampire after-hours club "The Necromantic."
Tiberius The Mauler (179 years-old)
Tiberius spent 120 of his 179 years on earth as a prisoner at the vampire maximum-security facility known as "The Spike." It was there that he began training for his short-lived run at the V.L.T.

THE VAMPIRE CHRONICLES
V.L.T CAST OF CHARACTERS
Poison Ash (214 years old)
Trained in the ways of
murder from an early age,
Ash was born into an
enigmatic cult of vampire
assassins. Her sexuality
and seductiveness are
assets which allow her to
get in close for the kill.
Santana (541 years old)
little is know about
Santana but it is rumored
that the vampire was once
a member of ancient Azte
nobility. This may explain
his lust for power and utter
disregard for both vampire
and human life.


NOW WE'RE SEEING SOME ACTION!!
SANTANA FINALLY SEEMS READY TO BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS!
OH
OH
OH
OH
I THINK IT'S TIME I SHOW YOU—
—WHAT LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ABYSS
TALK...

...WON'T KEEP YOU ALIVE, WRETCH!
YES! DESHWITAT UNLEASHES HIS DARK MAGIC AT LAST,
...BUT SANTANA DEFLECTS IT WITH EASE!

THE RICOCHET FROM DESHWITAT'S BLAST—
IT'S DISRUPTING THE ARENA'S BARRIER!
NOW THAT'S ODD...
FOR A VAMPIRE WITH SUCH A LOW ENERGY RATING—
...HIS MAGIC SEEMS TO HAVE MADE A FISSURE IN THE SHIELD
I'M THINKING THERE'S MORE TO RUDRICH THAN MEETS THE EYE!
HMM... AN ENERGY RATING OF 14.8, EH?
YOU ARE FULL OF SHEET, MY FRIEND!

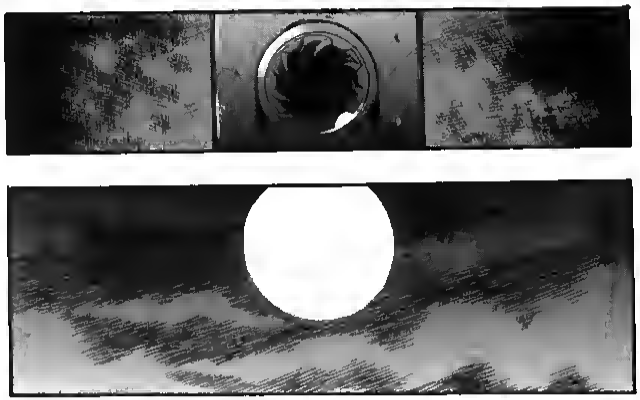
YOU WANT TO PLAY GAMES WITH SANTANA, EH? YOU'RE NO WEAKLING, GRINGO
I'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME, AND I KNOW WHAT POWER FEELS LIKE.
I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE STRONGER THAN MOST, YES?
.....
MAYBE EVEN AS STRONG AS SANTANA!
BUT THAT'S OKAY, I'VE BROUGHT COMPANY

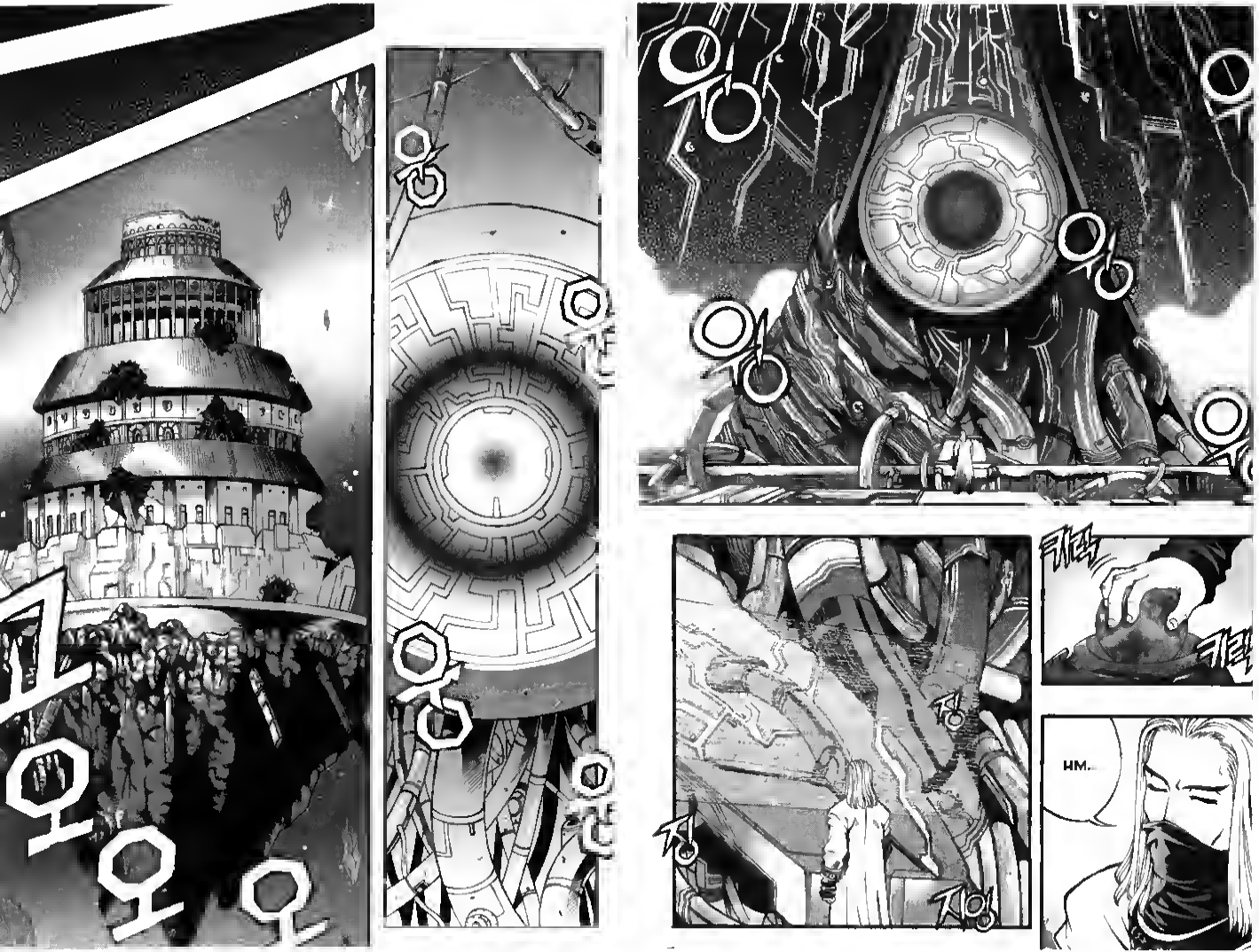
RUDBICH... SAY HELLO TO MY LEETLE FRIENDS!!
WHAT THE--?! SANTANA'S PULLED OUT A PAIR OF HANDGUNS?!
WHY WOULD YOU USE GUNS IN THE VLTS?!
I'VE BEEN HIT WITH TOYS LIKE THOSE BEFORE.
THEY STING, BUT..

WHAT'S THIS GUY UP TO..?
IS THIS GUY FOR REAL? EVEN I CAN DODGE BULLETS!
NO WAIT !
I KNEW I'D SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE!
THOSE THOSE GUNS!
DESHWITAT! STAY CLEAR OF THOSE DAMN GUNS!
WHAT...? DRAIS--
GYAA!!

URH ! NO MERE GUN CAN PACK THAT MUCH FORCE!
...!!

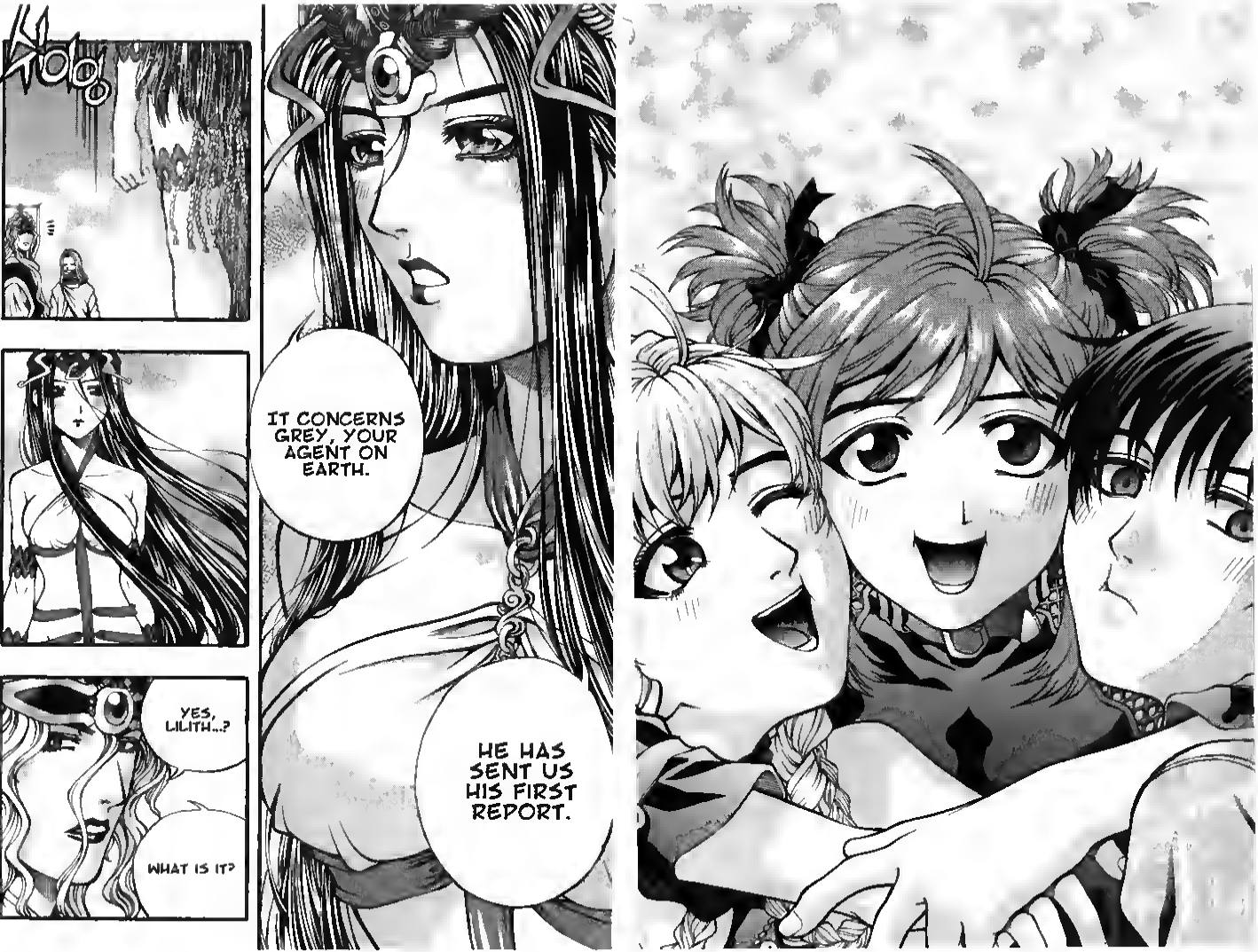
NOW-- IT'S TIME TO DIE, KEED.
KSCH
It is Gorthay !!
WE'LL SEE..




오오오
HM...

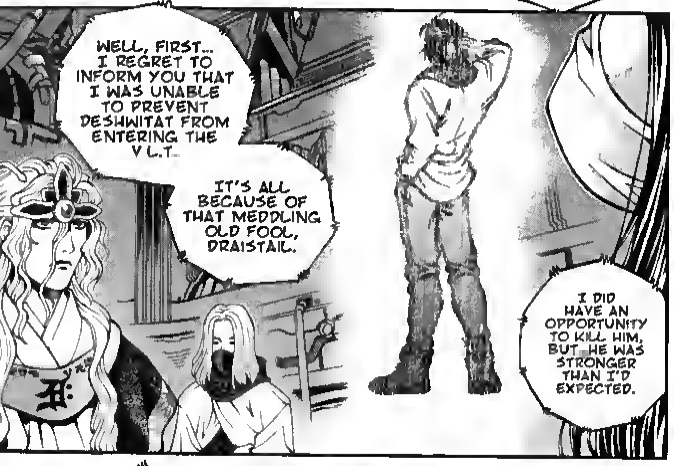
HARD AT WORK I SEE, DAN-EL.
WHAT HAVE YOU TO REPORT?
AH, MASTER KALUTIKA. YOU'VE ARRIVED.
AS I FEARED, IT'S NEARLY IMPENETR-ABLE
OF THE 250 LEVELS OF PROTECTION, I'VE ONLY CIRCUMVENTED 38.
TSK...THOSE FRIGHTENED, DODDERING OLD FOOLS SEALED IT WELL.

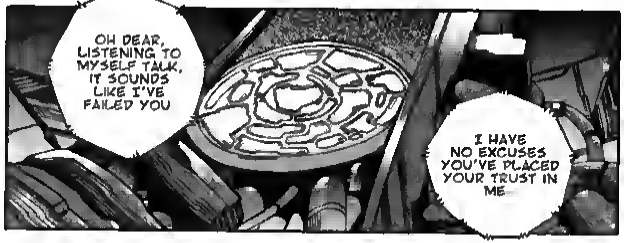
IN THIS CASE, THEY WERE AS CLEVER AS THEY WERE SCARED.
THEY NAMED IT THE "THULIUS KNOT" IT IS A PROTECTION CODE OF UNIMAGINABLE COMPLEXITY.
A CODE THAT GUARDS THE SECRET OF "THE PLANET DESTROYER"
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BYPASS THE REMAINING LEVELS?
NO LESS THAT 60 EARTH DAYS.
HRGH! THOSE WRETCHED HUMANS WILL LIVE FOR YET ANOTHER 60 DAYS?
WELL, I HAVE PLOTTED FOR 350 YEARS IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MY VENGEANCE
PERHAPS I SHOULD SAVOR THESE FINAL 60 DAYS

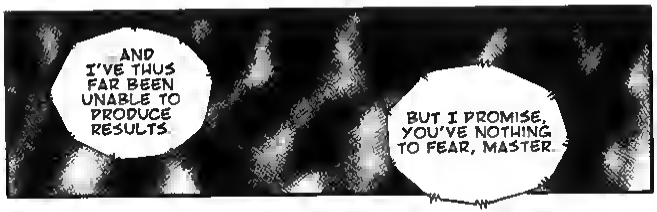

HOO
YES, LILITH..?
WHAT IS IT?
IT CONCERNS GREY, YOUR AGENT ON EARTH.
HE HAS SENT US HIS FIRST REPORT.

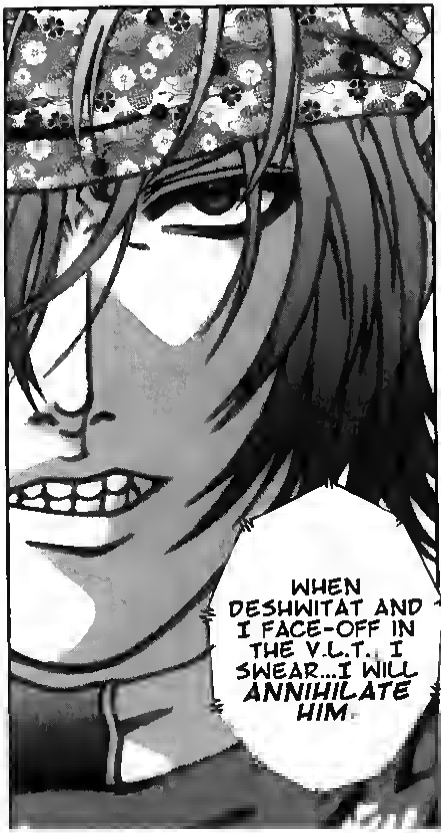
IT CONCERNS GREY, YOUR AGENT ON EARTH.
HE HAS SENT US HIS FIRST REPORT.
OH, HAS HE NOW?
LET'S HEAR IT THEN. I'M EAGER TO HEAR OF HIS PROGRESS.
AS YOU WISH

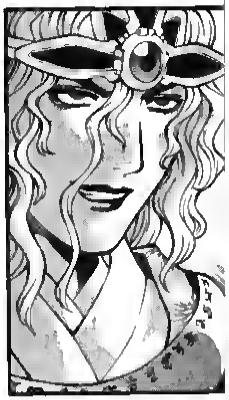
AHEM, AHEM.
M-MASTER KALUTIKA... I HUMBLY SUBMIT MY REPORT.
UM...UH, LET'S SEE.. WHERE TO BEGIN?


WELL, FIRST.. I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT I WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT DESHWITAT FROM ENTERING THE V.L.T.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT MEDDLING OLD FOOL, DRAISTAIL.
I DID HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO KILL HIM, BUT...HE WAS STRONGER THAN I'D EXPECTED.


OH DEAR, LISTENING TO MYSELF TALK, IT SOUNDS LIKE I'VE FAILED YOU
I HAVE NO EXCUSES YOU'VE PLACED YOUR TRUST IN ME.


AND I'VE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO PRODUCE RESULTS.
BUT I PROMISE, YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR, MASTER.


WHEN DESHWITAT AND I FACE-OFF IN THE V.L.T., I SWEAR...I WILL ANNIHILATE HIM.



OH, YES... ONE MORE THING. IT MAY BE PREMATURE TO SPEAK OF THIS, BUT...
THESE "SEEDS OF GOD" YOU'VE MENTIONED BEFORE...
I MAY BE ABLE TO REAP A HARVEST SOON. I WILL GATHER MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU...
THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO REPORT
UNTIL WE SPEAK AGAIN...
...FATHER...
...MOTHER...

WELL, IT SEEMS HE'S DOING HIS BEST. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, LILITH?
.....
I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED, MASTER. I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT GREY WAS SEVERAL TIMES STRONGER THAN DESHWITAT
IF THEY WERE ENGAGED IN COMBAT, HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY LOSE?
HEH HEH. I'M SURE HE LET HIM ESCAPE.
DON'T WORRY. GREY'S THROUGH PLAYING AROUND
IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO SAVE DESHWITAT FOR THE V.L.T.

SIGH... VERY WELL..
I'LL RETURN TO THE SHRINE AND AWAIT YOU THERE
LILITH, WAIT.
OUT OF SIMPLE CURIOUSITY—
SHOULD DESHWITAT AND GREY ENGAGE IN LETHAL COMBAT, WHO WOULD YOU ROOT FOR?
THERE ARE NO GODS OR DEMONS, IN THIS WORLD—
—OR ANY OTHER, AS CRUEL AS YOU, KALUTIKA

AND THE SECOND BOUT OF THE V.L.T. HAS TAKEN AN UNEXPECTED TURN!

IT SEEMED LIKE SANTANA WAS HOLDING BACK, BUT HE HAD A LITTLE TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE!
WHICH LEAVES DESHWITAT STARING DOWN–

...THE BUSINESS END OF A GUN!

–SANTANA LITERALLY HAS DESHWITAT'S LIFE AT HIS FINGERTIP!
AND WHAT A GUN IT IS, MY FRIENDS! IF YOU ASK ME..

DAMN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'VE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE? YOU KNOW HIM?

ESCOBAR, YOU TRAITOR..

HEH...
HEH HEH HEH...

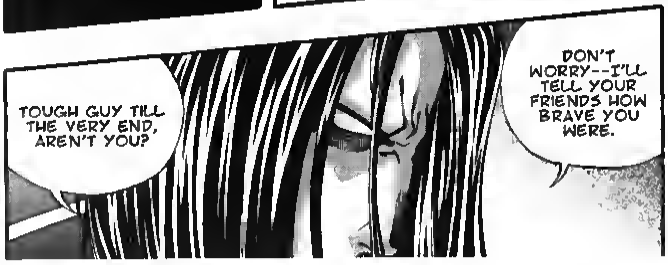
SO YOU LAUGH IN THE FACE OF DEATH, EH, KEED?

HE'S A VAMPIRE HUNTER WORKING FOR A FANATICAL RELIGIOUS SECT HE'S KILLED HUNDREDS OF VAMPIRES
THOSE WEAPONS WERE SPECIALLY DESIGNED BY HUMANS TO KILL VAMPIRES. ESCOBAR'S A SADISTIC CRIMINAL..

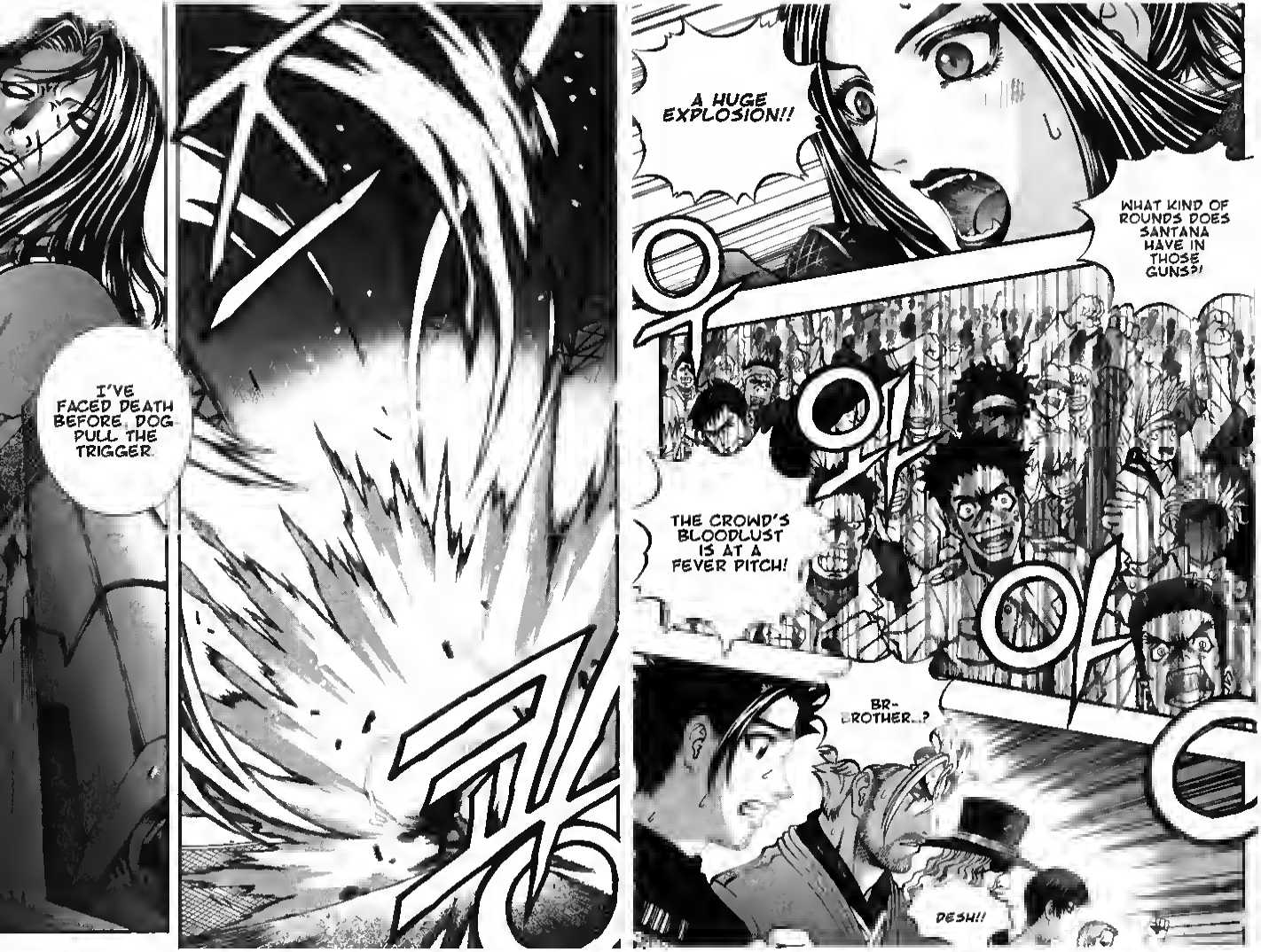
...AND I'M NOT SURE DESH CAN TAKE HIM
HE'S GOT OVER 500 YEARS' COMBAT EXPERIENCE MOSTLY KILLING VAMPIRES

I WAS JUST THINKING...YOU BRAG ABOUT BRINGING YOUR "LEETLE FRIENDS."

BUT IF YOU BRING...
...FRIENDS TO A FIGHT, DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'RE AFRAID TO FIGHT ON YOUR OWN?


TOUGH GUY TILL THE VERY END, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T WORRY--I'LL TELL YOUR FRIENDS HOW BRAVE YOU WERE.

I'VE FACED DEATH BEFORE, DOG. PULL THE TRIGGER.
カチ
ドン


I'VE FACED DEATH BEFORE, DOG. PULL THE TRIGGER.
A HUGE EXPLOSION!!
WHAT KIND OF ROUNDS DOES SANTANA HAVE IN THOSE GUNS?!
THE CROWD'S BLOODLUST IS AT A FEVER PITCH!
BR- BROTHER...?
DESH!!

IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED WITH ALL THE SMOKE DOWN THERE..
BUT JUDGING FROM THE SIZE OF THAT BLAST, I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT DESHWITAT COULD HAVE SURVIVED
HE MUST BE IN PIECES!
DESH...
DON'T GET YOURSELF UPSET, MILLENEAR

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING, BUT..
..I'M SURE DESHWITAT IS STILL ALIVE.
AND PROBABLY MORE THAN A LITTLE PISSED OFF!

BY THE FANGS OF VLAD! DESHWITAT'S ALIVE!!
HE TOOK THAT BLAST POINT BLANK-- AND YET HE SEEMS UNSCATHED!
NICE!!
HEHOOO!
A BLESSED SILVER BULLET. THIS WAS YOUR SECRET WEAPON, YOU WORM?
YE NOT GU
YOU'RE JUST A PEON, WORKING FOR THE CROSS-WORSHIPPERS

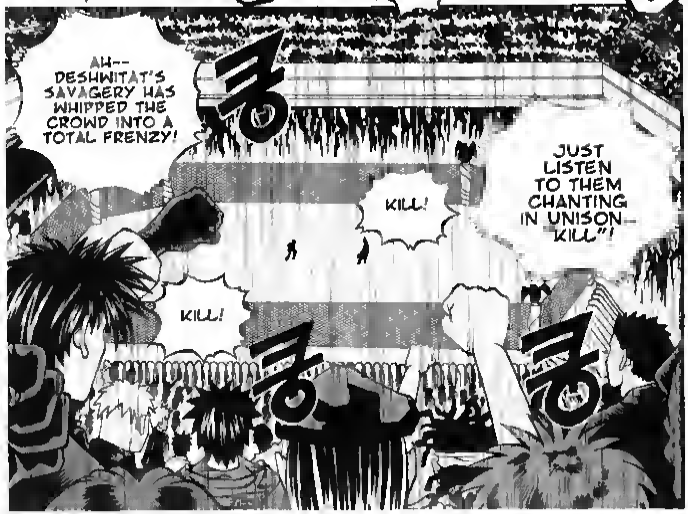
YOU LEETLE PEEG! YOU GOT LUCKY AND DODGED THE BULLET, IS ALL!
YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY AGAIN, I PROMISE!
LUCK IS FOR FOOLS

AHH! IT FEELS LIKE MY HEAD IS COMING RIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS!
HOW...?!
HOW COULD HE HAVE THIS MUCH PHYSICAL POWER WITHOUT STRONG MAGIC?!
OH

AARGH!
WHAT AN AMAZING FIGHT! SANTANA IS GETTING TORN APART!
HUH...?
WHAT?
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!
UP THERE! THE SCOREBOARD!
!!!
I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW..?!
D. AUDICH
0 PT
366.4PT
SANTANA
DESPITE STARTED THIS BOUT WITH AN ALREADY LOW ENERGY LEVEL...
..BUT NOW HE'S GONE DOWN TO ZERO?!
WITH A ZERO LEVEL HE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO STAND--
--MUCH LESS STOMP A POWERFUL FOE LIKE SANTANA!
HA HA! I SHOULDA KNOWN--HE'S CONTROLLING HIS ENERGY!
HE NEEDED TO GET THRASHED A LITTLE FIRST BEFORE HE GOT WARMED UP
LOOKS LIKE THE TRAINING IS PAYING OFF.

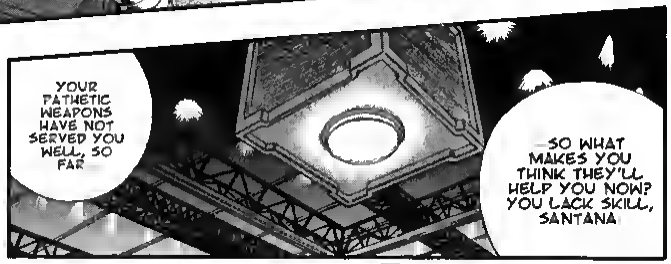
BAPTISM
BY FIRE!!

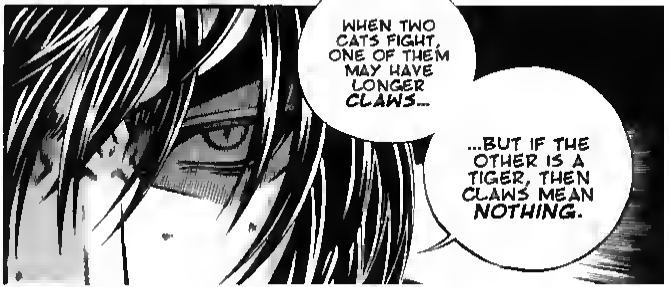
KILL!!
KILL!!
KILL!!
KILL!!
KILL!!
KILL!!


AH-- DESHWITAT'S SAVAGERY HAS WHIPPED THE CROWD INTO A TOTAL FRENZY!
KILL!
JUST LISTEN TO THEM CHANTING IN UNISON-- "KILL"!
KILL!

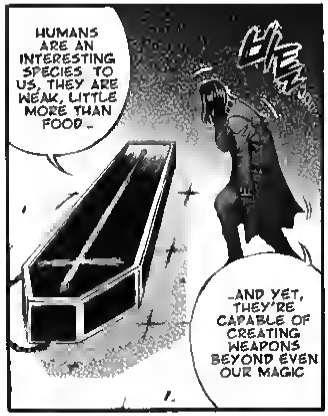
SCREECHING BUFFOONS. AS IF I NEED THEIR DIRECTION.

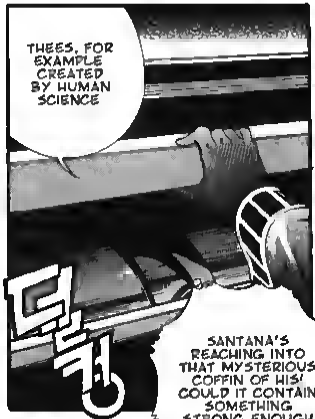
D-DON'T COUGH.. BE TOO CONFIDENT, KEED
I'M NOT DEAD, YET.. AND I STILL HAVE A TRICK UP MY SLEEVE

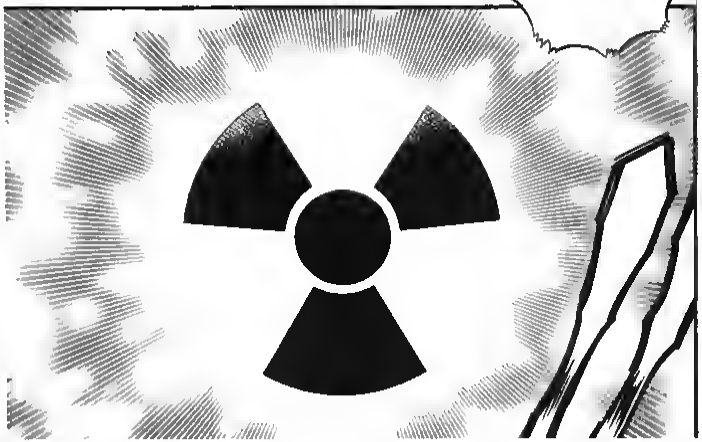

YOUR PATHETIC WEAPONS HAVE NOT SERVED YOU WELL, SO FAR.
-SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY'LL HELP YOU NOW? YOU LACK SKILL, SANTANA.

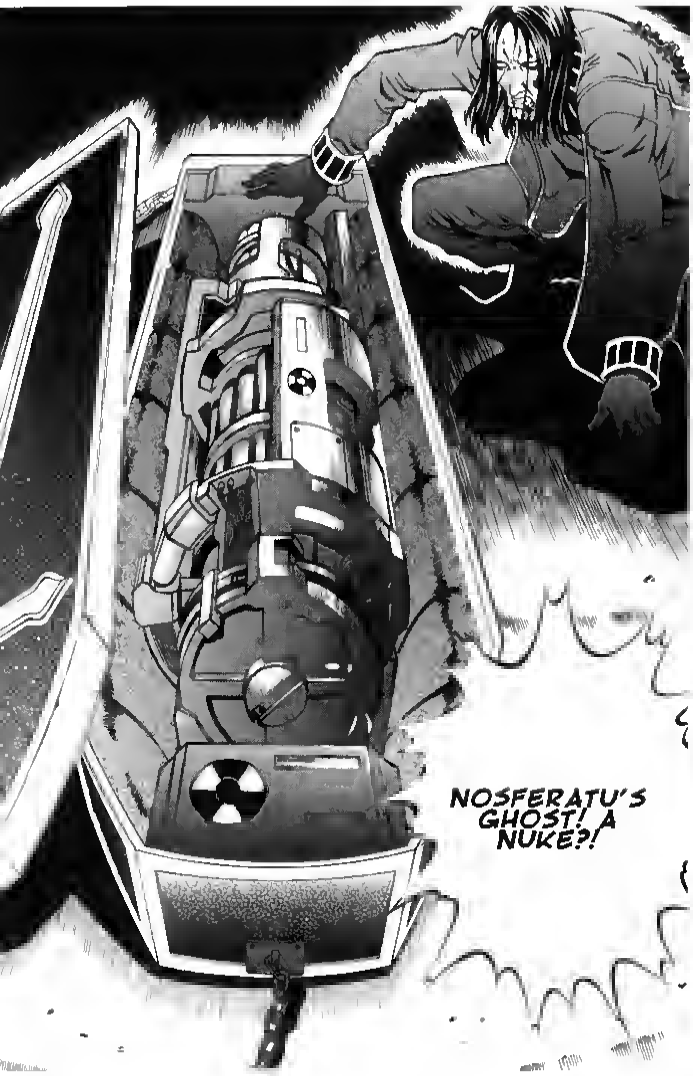

WHEN TWO CATS FIGHT, ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE LONGER CLAWS...
...BUT IF THE OTHER IS A TIGER, THEN CLAWS MEAN NOTHING.

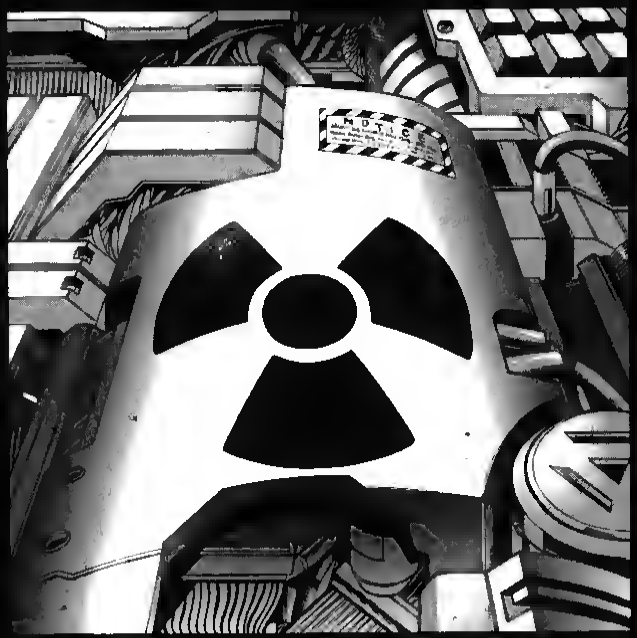
SPARE ME YOUR STUPEED ALLEGORIES!


HUMANS ARE AN INTERESTING SPECIES TO US, THEY ARE WEAK, LITTLE MORE THAN FOOD -
-AND YET, THEY'RE CAPABLE OF CREATING WEAPONS BEYOND EVEN OUR MAGIC


THEES, FOR EXAMPLE CREATED BY HUMAN SCIENCE
SANTANA'S REACHING INTO THAT MYSTERIOUS COFFIN OF HIS! COULD IT CONTAIN SOMETHING STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM?!

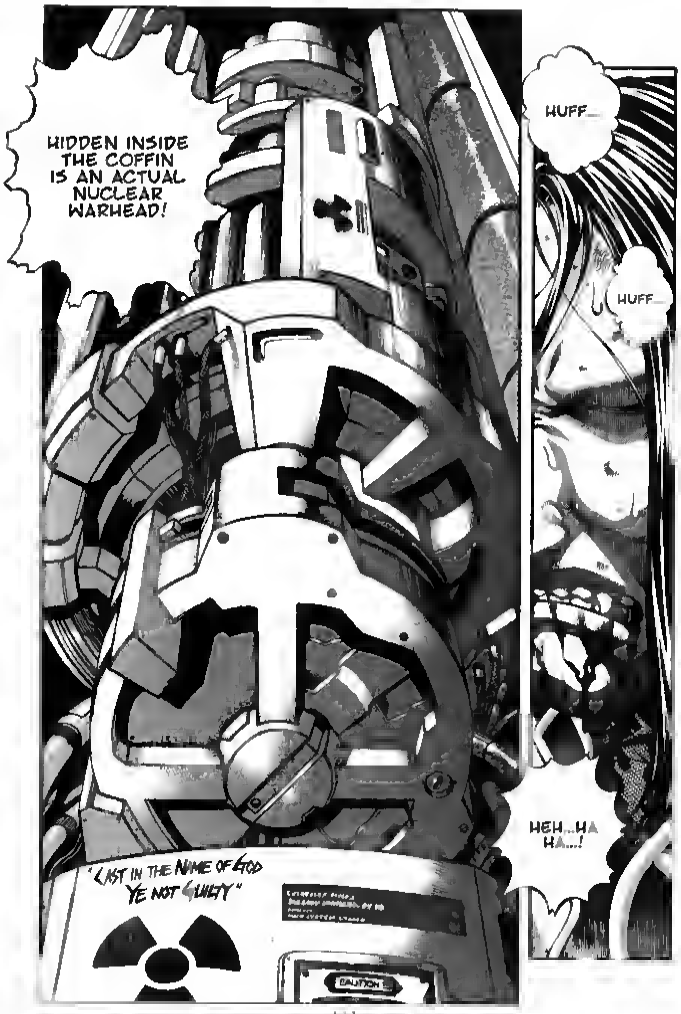




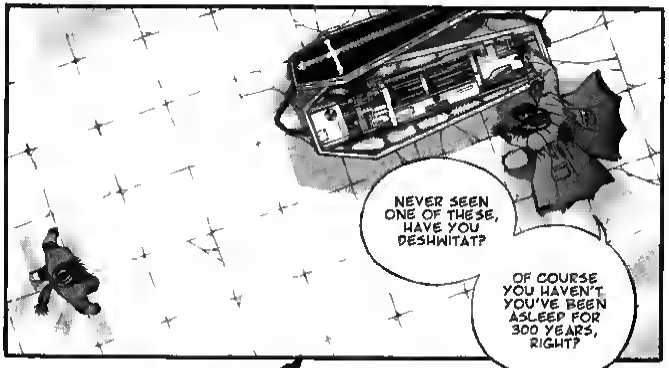


Chapter 61: The Big Bang

.....
NOT... GOOD.
NOW THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING!
INCREDIBLE! BACKED INTO A CORNER, SANTANA PULLS OUT THE ULTIMATE W.M.D.!

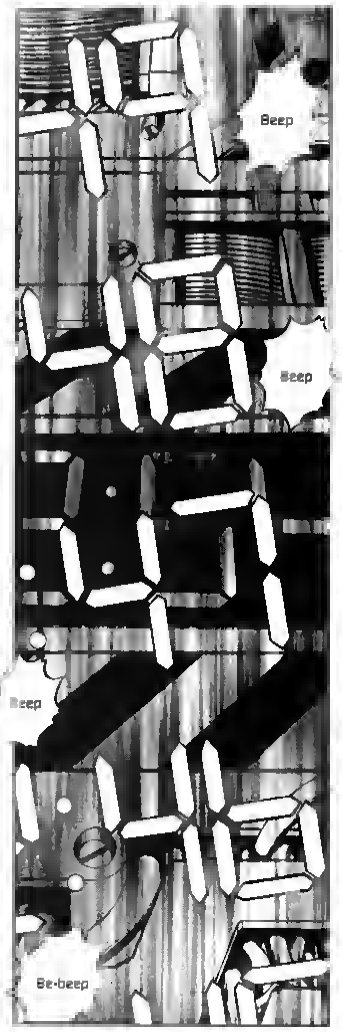

HIDDEN INSIDE THE COFFIN IS AN ACTUAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD!
"LAST IN THE NAME OF GOD YE NOT GUILTY"
CAUTION
HUFF...
HUFF...
HEH...HA HA...!

NEW-CLEAR WAR HEAD?

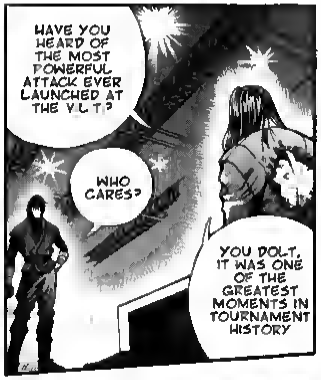

NEVER SEEN ONE OF THESE, HAVE YOU DESHWITAT?
OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR 300 YEARS, RIGHT?

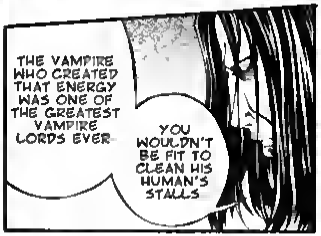
WELL, IT'S TIME FOR A WAKE-UP CALL, KEED.
FLASH
AAAA

ARMED
03:00:50
EIZU!
H-HE'S ENGAGED THE BOMB!
HE'S TRIGGERED THE DEVICE WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION!
AHH! THE GUY'S NUTS!
HE'S GONNA KILL US
TURN IT OFF, YOU PSYCHO!


Beep
Beep
Beep
Be-beep

ALL RIGHT, YOU FILTHY CHUPACABRA HOW DEADLY IS THIS THING?


HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE MOST POWERFUL ATTACK EVER LAUNCHED AT THE V.L.T.?
WHO CARES?
YOU DOLT. IT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS IN TOURNAMENT HISTORY


THE VAMPIRE WHO CREATED THAT ENERGY WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST VAMPIRE LORDS EVER
YOU WOULDN'T BE FIT TO CLEAN HIS HUMAN'S STALLS

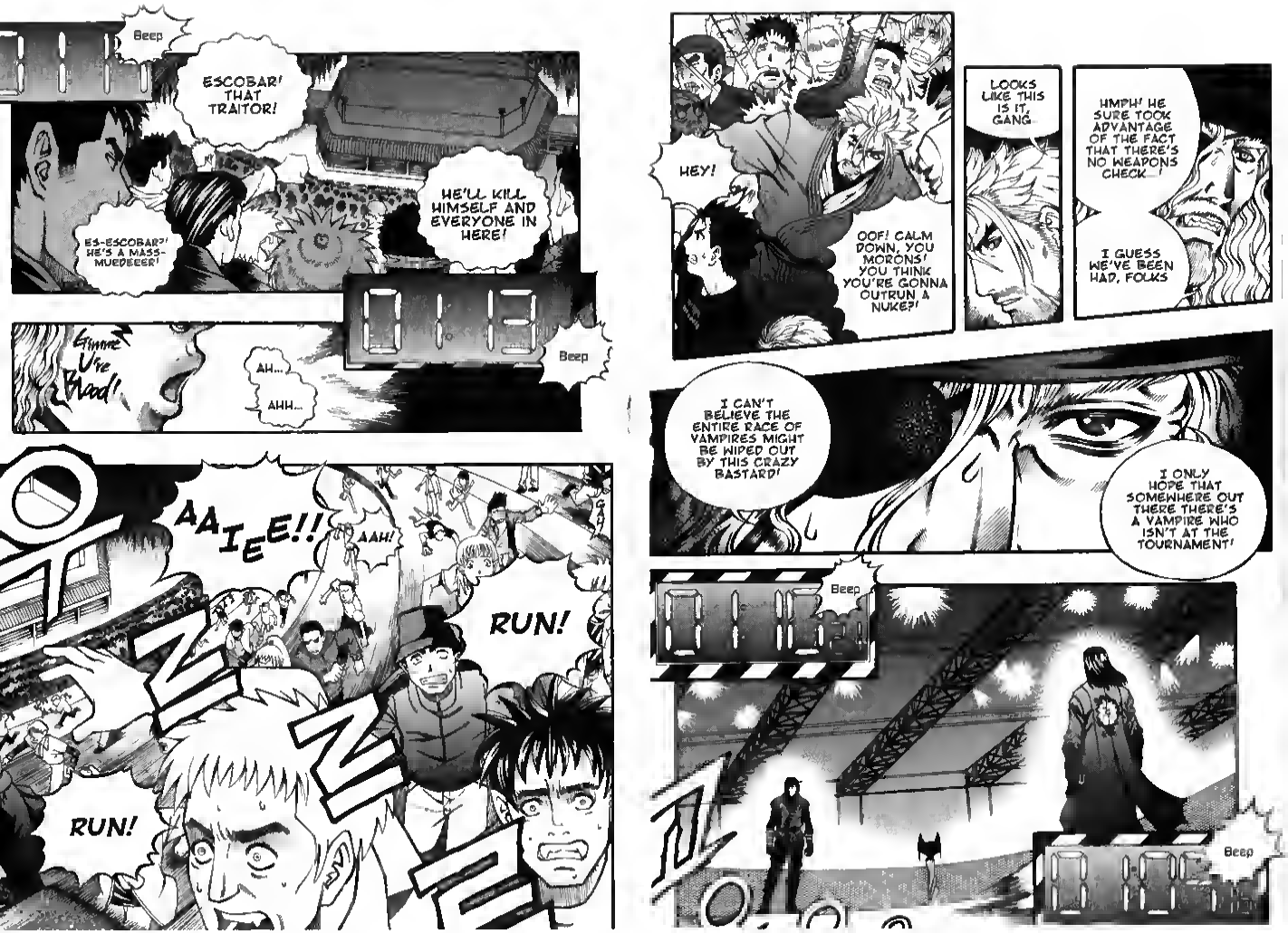
THAT BLAST OF ENERGY NEARLY DESTROYED THE CIRCLE OF BLOOD
AFTER THAT, THE ARCHITECTS REDESIGNED THE ARENA'S SHIELD. IT CAN NOW WITHSTAND THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY.
ARGH! I DIDN'T ASK FOR A V.L.T HISTORY LESSON!
SHUT UP AND LISTEN. WHEN THIS DEVICE EXPLODES IT WILL GENERATE AT LEAST...
...30 TIMES THAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY!
HUMANS HAVE CREATED THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE ON THE EARTH.

WHEN THEES BABY EXPLODES, IT WILL DECIMATE EVERYTHING IN THE AREA FOR MILES!
THE ENTIRE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS WILL BE LOST IN A FIERY APOCALYPSE!

AN APOCALYPSE THAT IS ONLY TWO MINUTES AWAY, NOW!
MISS ISABEL! AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM V.L.T. HQ!
GIVE IT TO ME!
.....!!

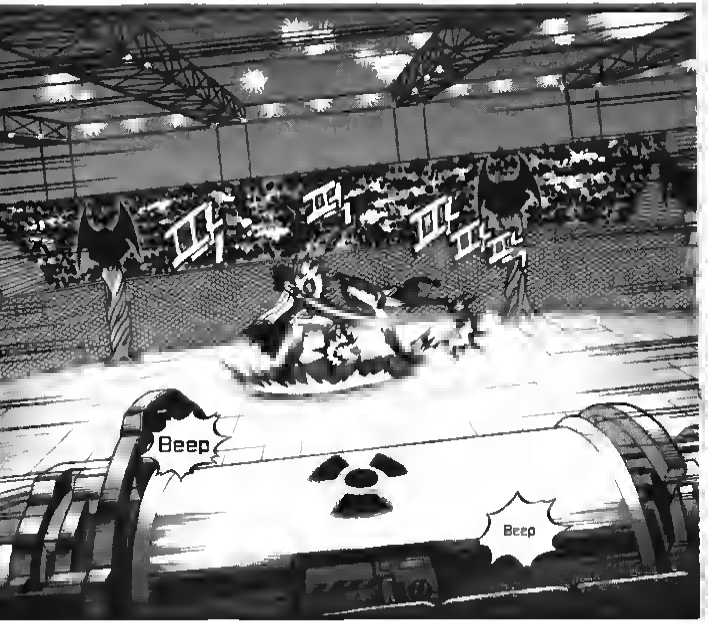
ATTENTION SANTANA! I'VE JUST RECEIVED AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE V.L.T COUNCIL!
DISARM THE NUCLEAR WEAPON! I REPEAT DISARM THE NUCLEAR WEAPON!
AFTER AN EMERGENCY SESSION AT HEADQUARTERS IT HAS BEEN DECLARED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE V.L.T!
EVEN IF YOU ONLY USE THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR ATTACK TO DEFEAT YOUR OPPONENT, THE WIN WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED!
BUT IF YOU DISARM THE DEVICE AND RESUME NORMAL COMBAT, THERE WILL BE NO VIOLATION!
THIS IS MADNESS, SANTANA! YOU MUST DISARM THE BOMB!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
I WAS SCARED FOR A MOMENT THERE.
SEE? NO VIOLATION! JUST SHUT IT OFF!
NO VIOLATION..? ARE YOU KEEDING ME?
DO YOU STILL NOT KNOW WHO I AM?!

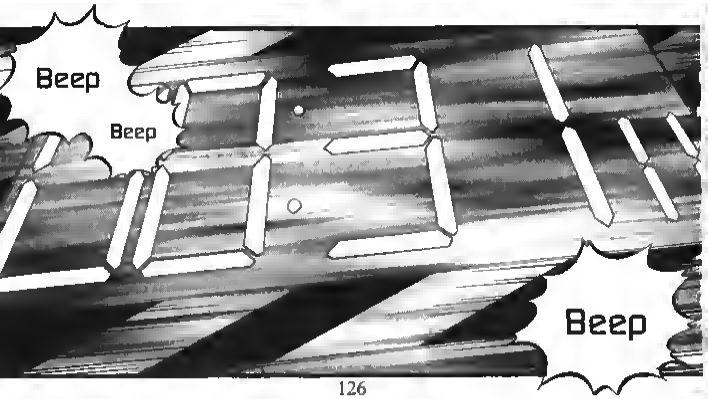
YOU WORTHLESS, DEGENERATE BLOOD DRINKERS!!
I CARE NOTHING FOR YOUR STUPEED CONTEST! I CRAVE ONLY YOUR EXTERMINATION!
THE DEACTIVATION KEY IS DESTROYED
NOW, NO ONE IN THIS WORLD CAN STOP IT
IN A LITTLE OVER A MINUTE YOU'LL ALL DIE!

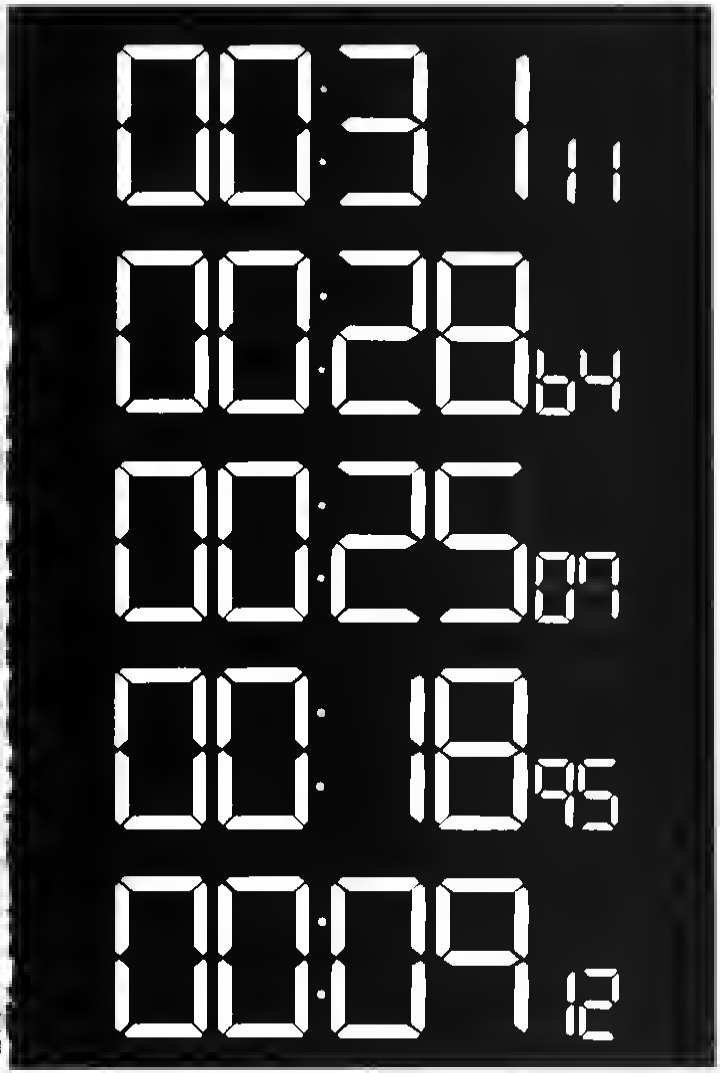

Beep
ESCOBAR! THAT TRAITOR!
HE'LL KILL HIMSELF AND EVERYONE IN HERE!
ES-ESCOBAR?! HE'S A MASS-MUEDEEER!
01:13
Beep
Gimme U're Blood!
AH...
AHH...
AAIEE!!
AAH!
RUN!
RUN!
HEY!
OOF! CALM DOWN, YOU MORONS! YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA OUTRUN A NUKE?!
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT, GANG
HMPH! HE SURE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THERE'S NO WEAPONS CHECK...!
I GUESS WE'VE BEEN HAD, FOLKS
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE ENTIRE RACE OF VAMPIRES MIGHT BE WIPED OUT BY THIS CRAZY BASTARD!
I ONLY HOPE THAT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE THERE'S A VAMPIRE WHO ISN'T AT THE TOURNAMENT!
Beep
Beep

SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US? THERE'S NO STOPPING THAT NEW-CLEAR THING
PERHAPS I SHOULD SPEND MY REMAINING SECONDS TEARING YOU TO PIECES
HEY, WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT, KEED?
BUT FEEL FREE TO SPEND YOUR LAST MOMENTS KEESSING MY ASS
EITHER WAY, YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME VAPOR.
HURRY AND FINISH THIS OFF, DESHWITA!
GREY?! I HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR UGLY FACE BEFORE DYING?
I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT IT EITHER, FOOL.
BUT I HAVE A PLAN. NOW TAKE HIM OUT--FAST!
HMM...
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE COOKING UP, BUT--
--I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER PLANNED!
KOF

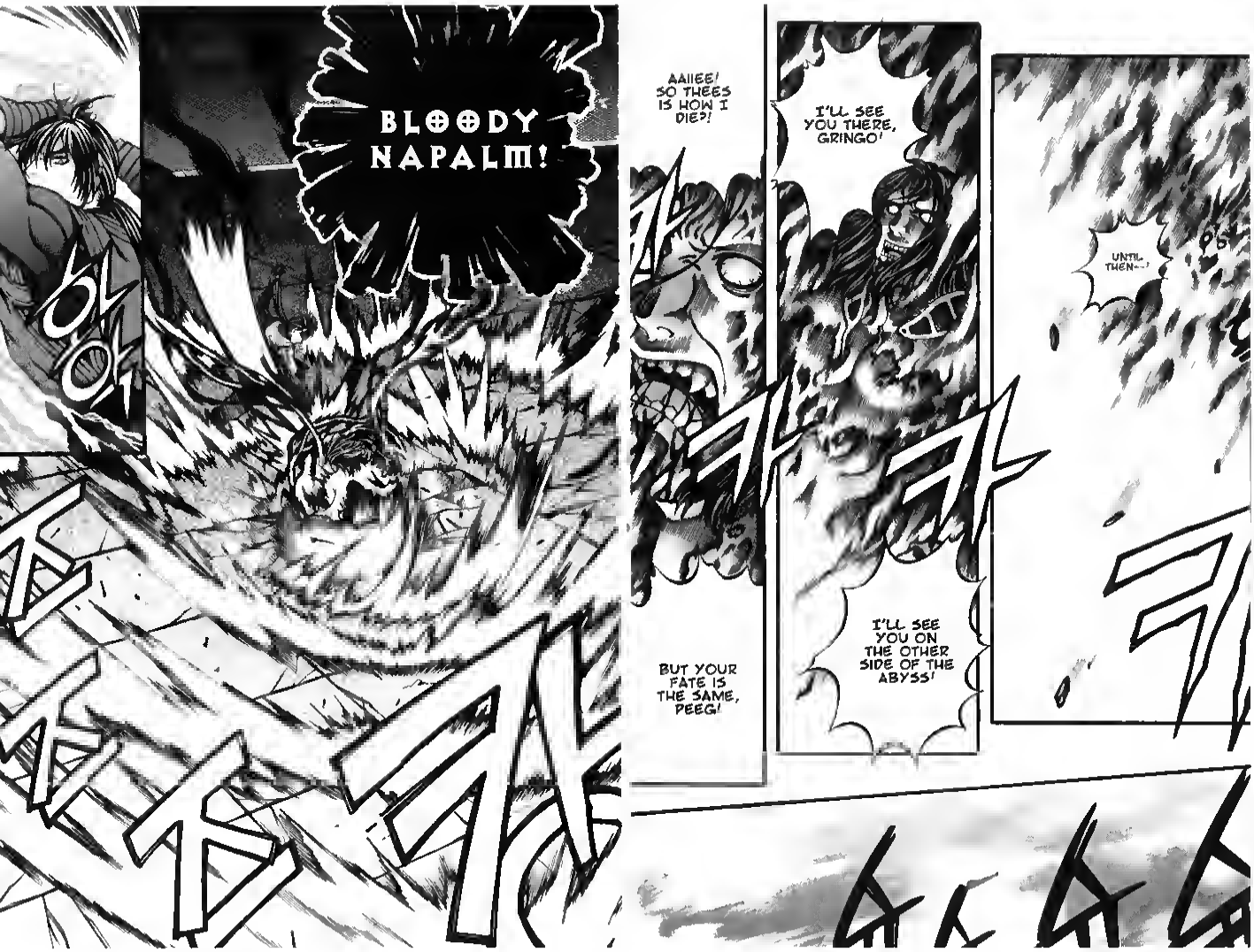
ARGH! I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE--
--I CAN STILL HOLD YOU OFF FOR 40 SECONDS!
WELL, THAT..
..REMAINS TO BE SEEN!
YES! NICE MOVE! GO, DESHWITA!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE FASTER!
SHUT UP, WILL YOU?!


Beep
Beep

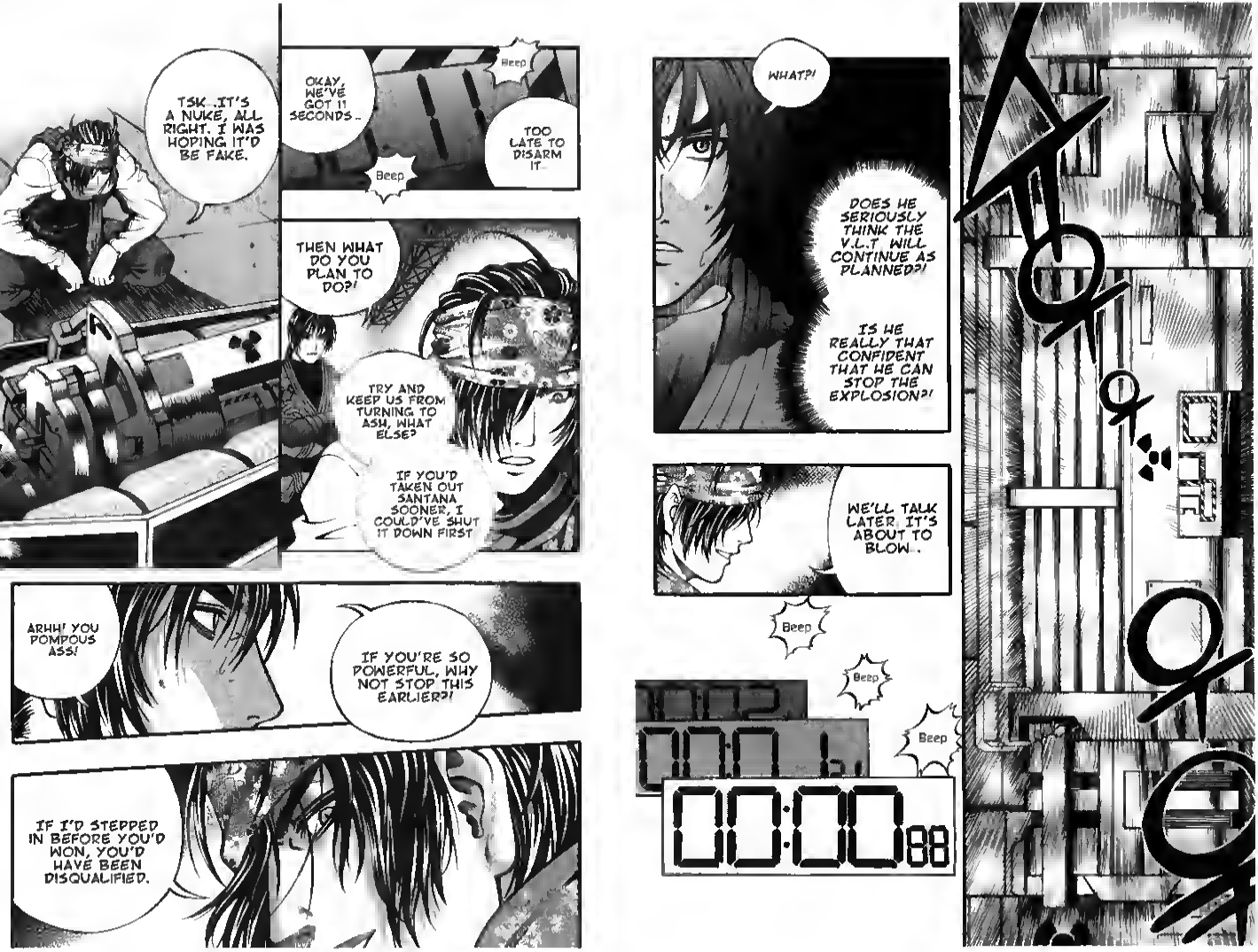

Beep
Beep
Beep


00:31 11
00:28 64
00:25 07
00:18 95
00:09 12

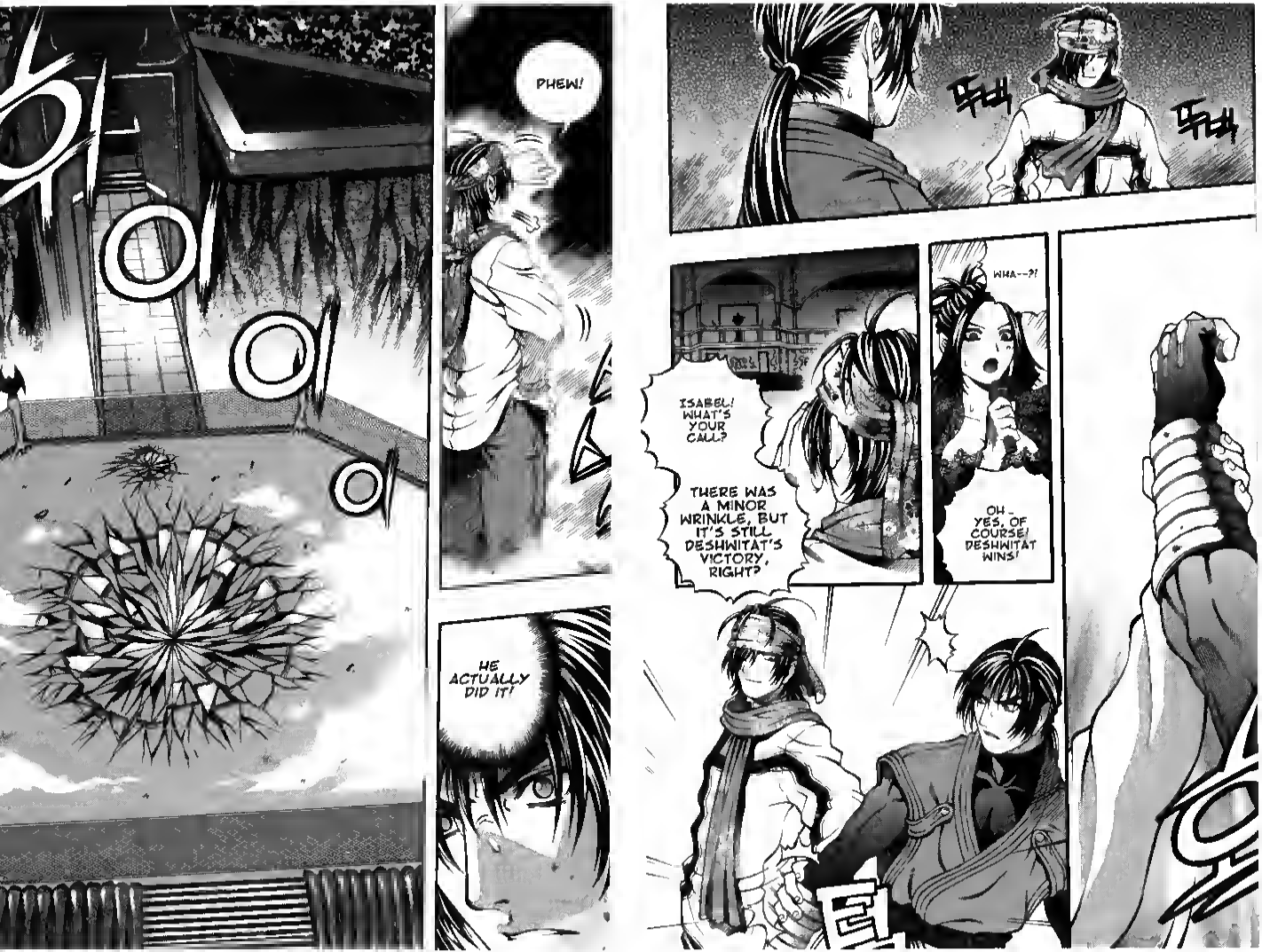
Beep
Beep
Beep
HURRY, DESHWITÁT! ONLY 25 SECONDS LEFT!
KILL HIM NOW!
YOUR CONSTANT YAMMERING ISN'T SPEEDING THIS UP!
HURGHH!!


BLOODY NAPALM!
AAIIEE! SO THEES IS HOW I DIE?!
I'LL SEE YOU THERE, GRINGO!
UNTIL THEN--!
BUT YOUR FATE IS THE SAME, PEEG!
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ABYSS!

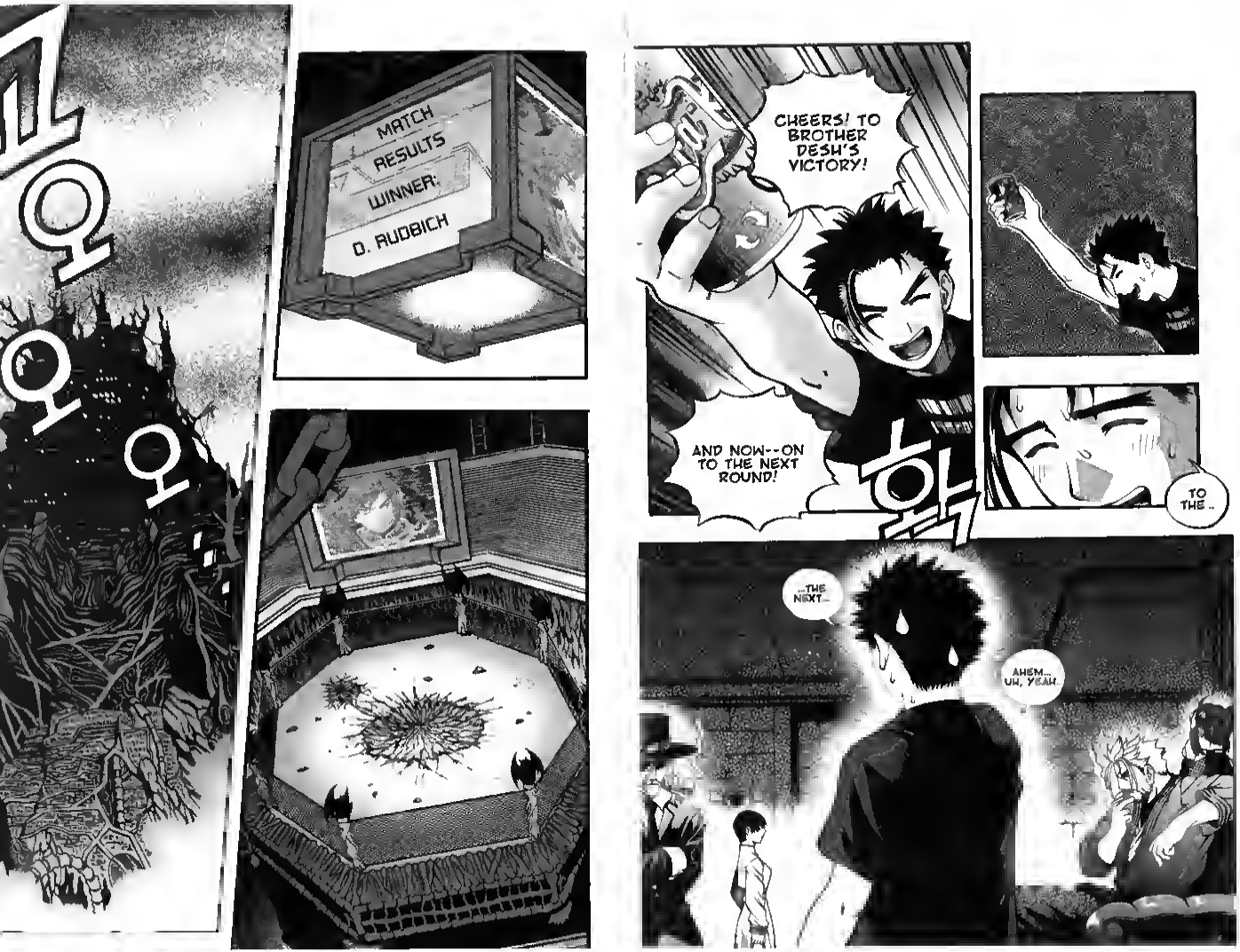
HE..HE DID IT!
AHHH! WHO CARES IF HE WON?! WE'RE GONNA DIE!!
HMM YOU'VE GOT A POINT, KID
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT, BERYUN! SO LET'S
..HAVE SOME FUN IN THESE LAST SECONDS!
BEHAVE, RETT! GREY'S UP TO SOMETHING
WHAT..?
WELL DONE RUDBICH!
NOW LEAVE THE REST TO ME!


TSK..IT'S A NUKE, ALL RIGHT. I WAS HOPING IT'D BE FAKE.
OKAY, WE'VE GOT 11 SECONDS..
Beep
Beep
TOO LATE TO DISARM IT..
THEN WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?!
TRY AND KEEP US FROM TURNING TO ASH, WHAT ELSE?
IF YOU'D TAKEN OUT SANTANA SOONER, I COULD'VE SHUT IT DOWN FIRST
ARHH! YOU POMPOUS ASS!
IF YOU'RE SO POWERFUL, WHY NOT STOP THIS EARLIER?!
IF I'D STEPPED IN BEFORE YOU'D WON, YOU'D HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED.
WHAT?!
DOES HE SERIOUSLY THINK THE V.L.T WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED?!
IS HE REALLY THAT CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN STOP THE EXPLOSION?!
WE'LL TALK LATER. IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW..
Beep
Beep
Beep
00:00:88
ATOMIC

HE'S CONTAINING IT...!!
SUCH UNBELIEVABLE ENERGY!
SO THIS IS A NUCLEAR WEAPON!

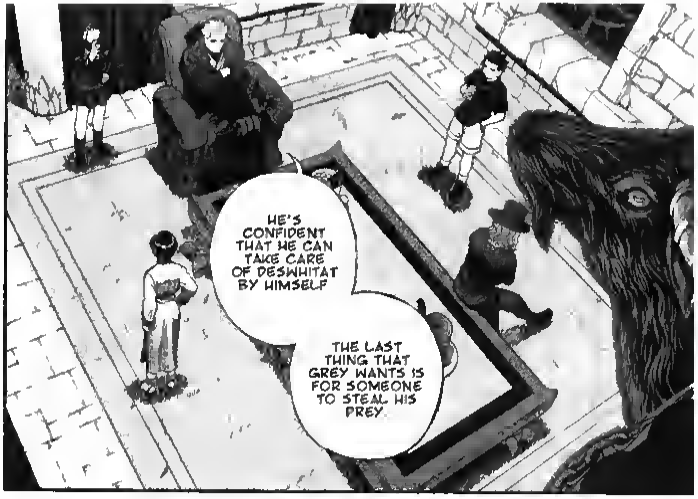

PHEW!
HE ACTUALLY DID IT!
ISABEL! WHAT'S YOUR CALL?
THERE WAS A MINOR WRINKLE, BUT IT'S STILL DESHWITAT'S VICTORY, RIGHT?
WHA--?!
OH - YES, OF COURSE! DESHWITAT WINS!

YOU WON THE MATCH, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT'S WITH THE SOUR FACE, RUDBICH?
ENJOY THE MOMENT.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...


MATCH RESULTS
WINNER:
O. RUDBICH
CHEERS! TO BROTHER DESH'S VICTORY!
AND NOW--ON TO THE NEXT ROUND!
TO THE...
...THE NEXT...
AHEM... UH, YEAH.

RIGHT..DESH'S FIRST VICTORY IN THE V.L.T COMPETITION.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A HOLLOW VICTORY.
BURP! AND YOU'RE STILL A PIG, FAT!
I MEAN, IF IT WASN'T FOR GREY, THERE'D BE NO MORE V.L.T., RIGHT?
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WIN SEEMS LESS THAN SATISFYING..
LIKE GETTING A GIRL DRUNK SO SHE'LL SLEEP WITH YOU.
UH..THAT MAY BE TRUE..
..BUT STILL, HE DID WIN THE FIGHT.
NO. REMI IS RIGHT.

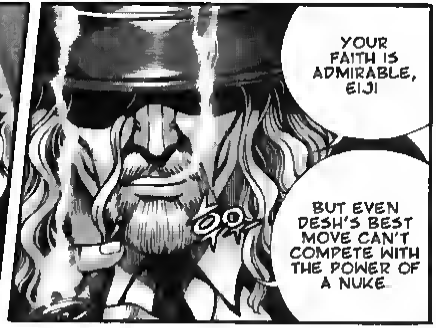
DESHWITAT-- A RELATIVE NEWCOMER-- WINS HIS FIRST ROUND AT THE V.L.T. SO WHAT?
RIGHT NOW, DESH IS LITTLE MORE THAN A FOOTNOTE. TODAY'S REAL STAR WAS..
..GREY.
HE'S THE ONE WHO STOPPED THAT NUCLEAR DEVICE FROM WIPING OUT THE VAMPIRE RACE
DOESN'T THIS SEEM ODD TO YOU?
IT'S AN EGO THING, REMI.
IF GREY'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO KILL DESH ANYWAY, WHY SAVE HIM NOW?
HE WANTS TO DO IT WITH HIS OWN HANDS.


HE'S CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN TAKE CARE OF DESHWITAT BY HIMSELF
THE LAST THING THAT GREY WANTS IS FOR SOMEONE TO STEAL HIS PREY

IT'S RATHER SIMPLE, REALLY HE'S JUST COMBINING A PHYSICAL ATTACK SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH HIS MAGIC ATTACK
HE TAKES HIS POWERFUL DEMON'S BAPTISM SPELL AND WRAPS IT AROUND HIS BODY WHILE ATTACKING

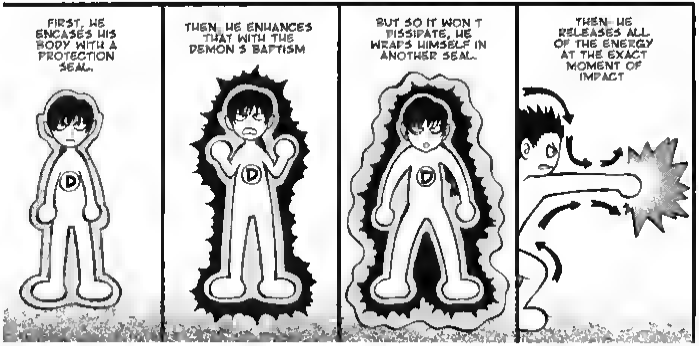
I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IS POSSIBLE
THERE IS NO WAY TO ENVELOPE HIS BODY IN THAT KIND OF ENERGY WITHOUT CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE

GOOD! LET HIM THINK THAT! BROTHER DESH'S BAPTISM OF FIRE WILL KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!

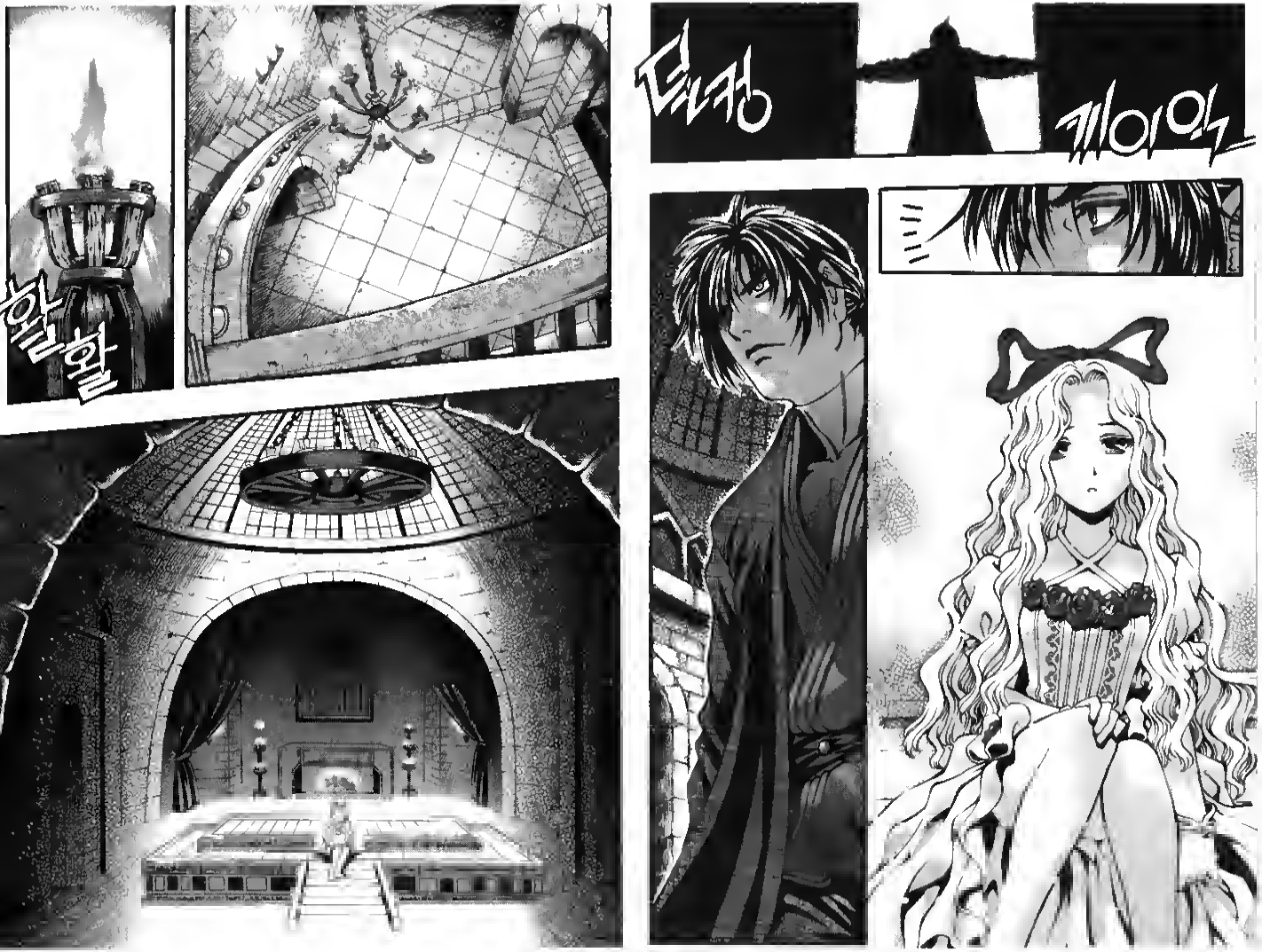

YOUR FAITH IS ADMIRABLE, EIJI
BUT EVEN DESH'S BEST MOVE CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE POWER OF A NUKE

I MEANT TO ASK YOU BEFORE WHERE DID THAT MOVE OF DESHWITAT'S COME FROM?
HOW WAS HE ABLE TO GAIN THAT MUCH POWER IN SUCH A SHORT TIME?

YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHAT I SAID, TOO
BUT, DESHWITAT FOUND HIS OWN WAY


FIRST, HE ENCASES HIS BODY WITH A PROTECTION SEAL.
THEN, HE ENHANCES THAT WITH THE DEMON'S BAPTISM
BUT SO IT WON'T DISSIPATE, HE WRAPS HIMSELF IN ANOTHER SEAL.
THEN, HE RELEASES ALL OF THE ENERGY AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF IMPACT

IT'S A MANEUVER THAT REQUIRES PERFECT TIMING. IF HE'S OFF BY A MILLISECOND, IT'S USELESS.
THAT'S WHY HE USED THE LOW SCORE ON THE BOARD. EXECUTED CORRECTLY, THE MOVE WOULD RESULT IN A MOMENTARY ZERO RATING.
ALTHOUGH WHAT YOU'RE SAYING SOUNDS LOGICAL, THAT KIND OF PRECISE CONTROL SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.
I KNOW. BUT DESHWITAT DID IT. HE'S A BRILLIANT STRATEGIST.
THAT BEING SAID—IT'S A DANGEROUS MOVE.
ONE LITTLE MISTAKE, AND HE COULD BE KILLED BY HIS OWN POWER.
AND, BY USING SO MUCH MAGIC AT ONCE, HE WEAKENS HIMSELF TO THE POINT THAT HE CAN ONLY FIGHT FOR A FEW MOMENTS AFTERWARD.
AS POWERFUL AS THIS MOVE IS, THERE'RE LIMITATIONS AND AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE GREY...
—WHO CAN WITHSTAND A NUCLEAR BLAST—HE MAY AS WELL JUST FART AT HIM.
GREY—DO YOU THINK HE PLANNED THE WHOLE NUKE THING?!
ARE YOU DENSE, GIRL? IF GREY'S AS POWERFUL AS HE SEEMS...
OW—THIS IS MAKING MY HEAD HURT.
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS DESHWITAT?
...THEN I HARDLY SEE WHY HE'D NEED TO PUT ON A SHOW FOR US.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF?
HE'S LOGGING HIS WIN AND DOING THE POST-BOUT INTERVIEW.
I'D IMAGINE THEY'RE TAKING GOOD CARE OF HIM.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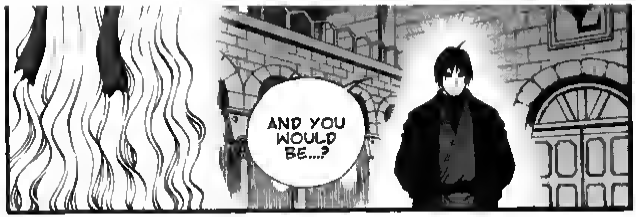
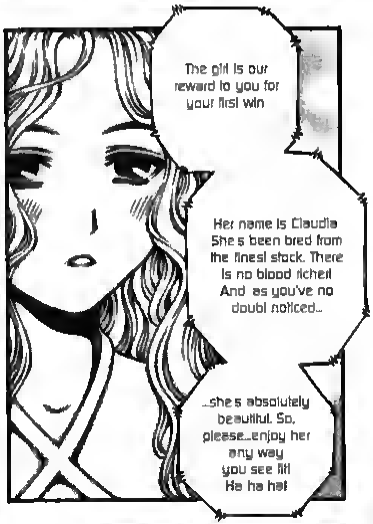
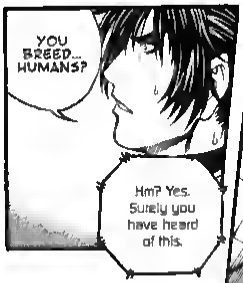
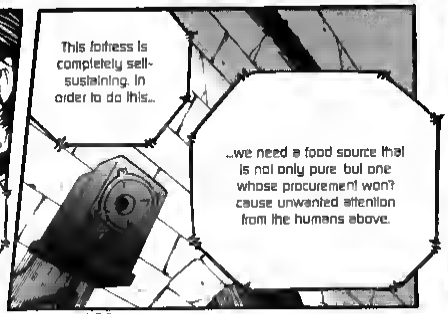

AND YOU WOULD BE...?

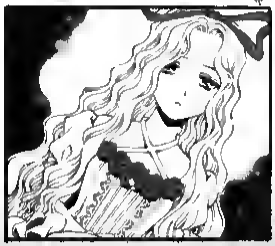
Welcome, Mr Rudolchi! I sincerely congratulate you on your victory!
This is the Victors Room! A place to reinvigorate your mind and body after combat!


The girl is our reward to you for your first win
Her name is Claudia. She's been bred from the finest stock. There is no blood richer! And as you've no doubt noticed...
...she's absolutely beautiful. So, please...enjoy her any way you see fit! Ha ha ha!


YOU BREED... HUMANS?
Hm? Yes. Surely you have heard of this.


This fortress is completely self-sustaining. In order to do this...
...we need a food source that is not only pure, but one whose procurement won't cause unwanted attention from the humans above.

But enough of that. Enjoy your spoils...
MY SPOILS? WAIT A MINUTE--!
Click



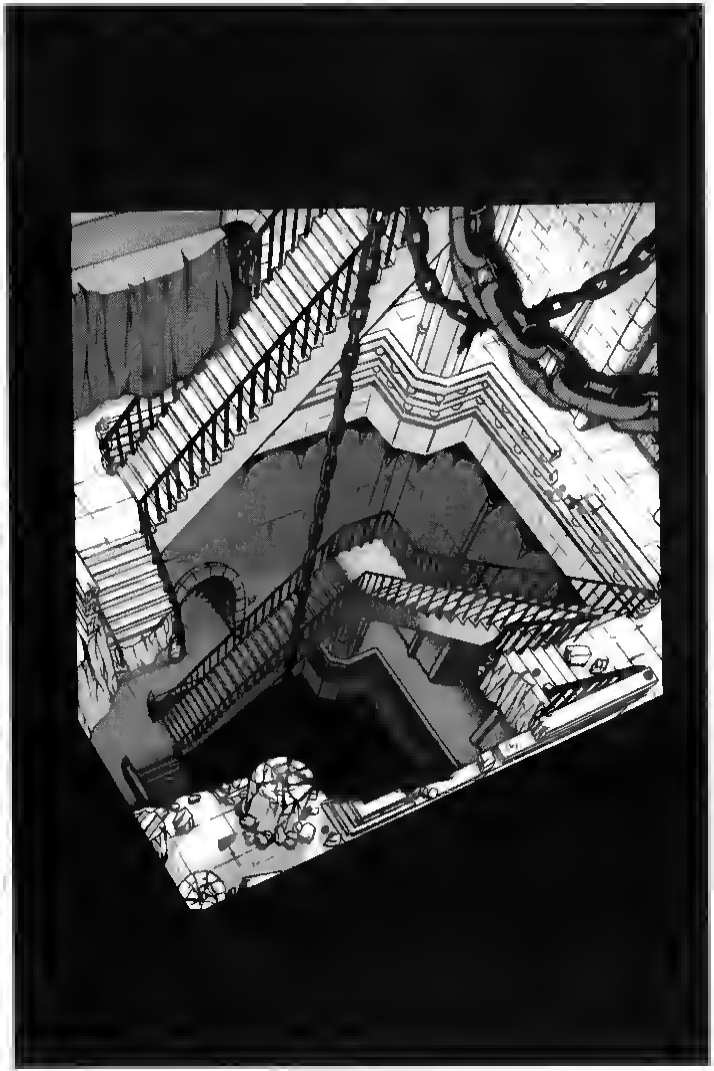
.....
PROMISE ME ONE THING, DESHWITAT...

I CAN'T TELL YOU TO NEVER HARM SOMEONE, SINCE YOU NEED HUMAN BLOOD TO SURVIVE.
AS YOU'VE SAID, IT'D BE LIKE TELLING A TIGER NOT TO HUNT...

BUT IF YOU MUST HUNT HUMANS, PLEASE.. PREY UPON THOSE WHO PREY UPON THE INNOCENT
I HATE TO THINK OF ANYONE BEING KILLED, BUT AT LEAST YOU'D BE DOING SOME GOOD
DESHWITAT..CAN YOU PROMISE ME THAT?
YOU FOOLISH GIRL. HOW CAN YOU ASK SUCH A THING..?
HOW WOULD I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE ANYWAY?
LET'S NOT TALK ANYMORE. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT AS VISCIOUS AS YOU ACT, DESHWITAT
FOR NOW, I WILL CHOOSE TO TRUST YOU
NOW, LOOK--!
OH, FORGET IT.

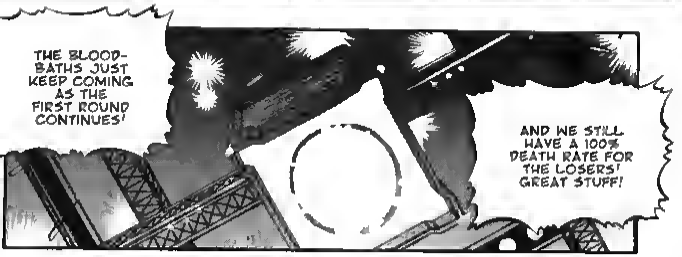
SHE USED TO DRIVE ME CRAZY. I HATED HAVING TO MAINTAIN CONTROL AROUND HER
SO..CLAUDIA, WAS IT? HOW ABOUT YOU?
ARE YOU ONE OF THE BAD ONES, WHO PREY UPON THE INNOCENT?
PLEASE.. ENJOY.. ME..
TAKE THIS BODY..
TAKE THIS BLOOD..
TO MY MASTER I WILL GIVE MUCH PLEASURE..

뚜벅,
뚜벅,
.....



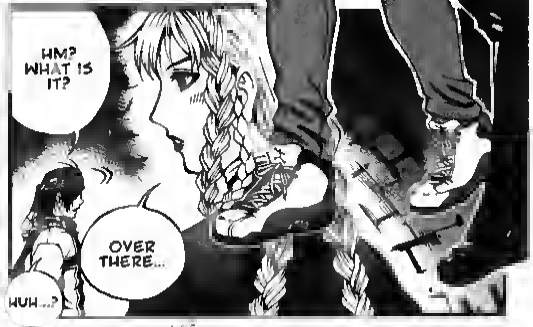
WELCOME BACK TO ROUND ONE OF THE V.L.T.! THE RING HAS BEEN REPAIRED AND BARING ANY UNFORESEEN INCIDENTS, WE'RE READY TO FIGHT!
AFTER YESTERDAY'S EXCITEMENT, OUR NEXT COMBATANTS...
...ARE READY TO RUMBLE!!
KAFF-!! S-STOP! I GIVE UP!
FORFEIT. DONNATELLO WITHDRAWS FROM COMPETITION, GIVING COQUETTE THE WIN.
BUT WAIT!
KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
THE AUDIENCE WANTS NONE OF IT! THEY'RE CALLING FOR THE KILL!

OH, THE FAN DANCE OF DEATH! THAT HAD TO HURT!
DONNATELLO'S IN PIECES... COQUETTE WINS-- AND THE CROWD GOES WILD!

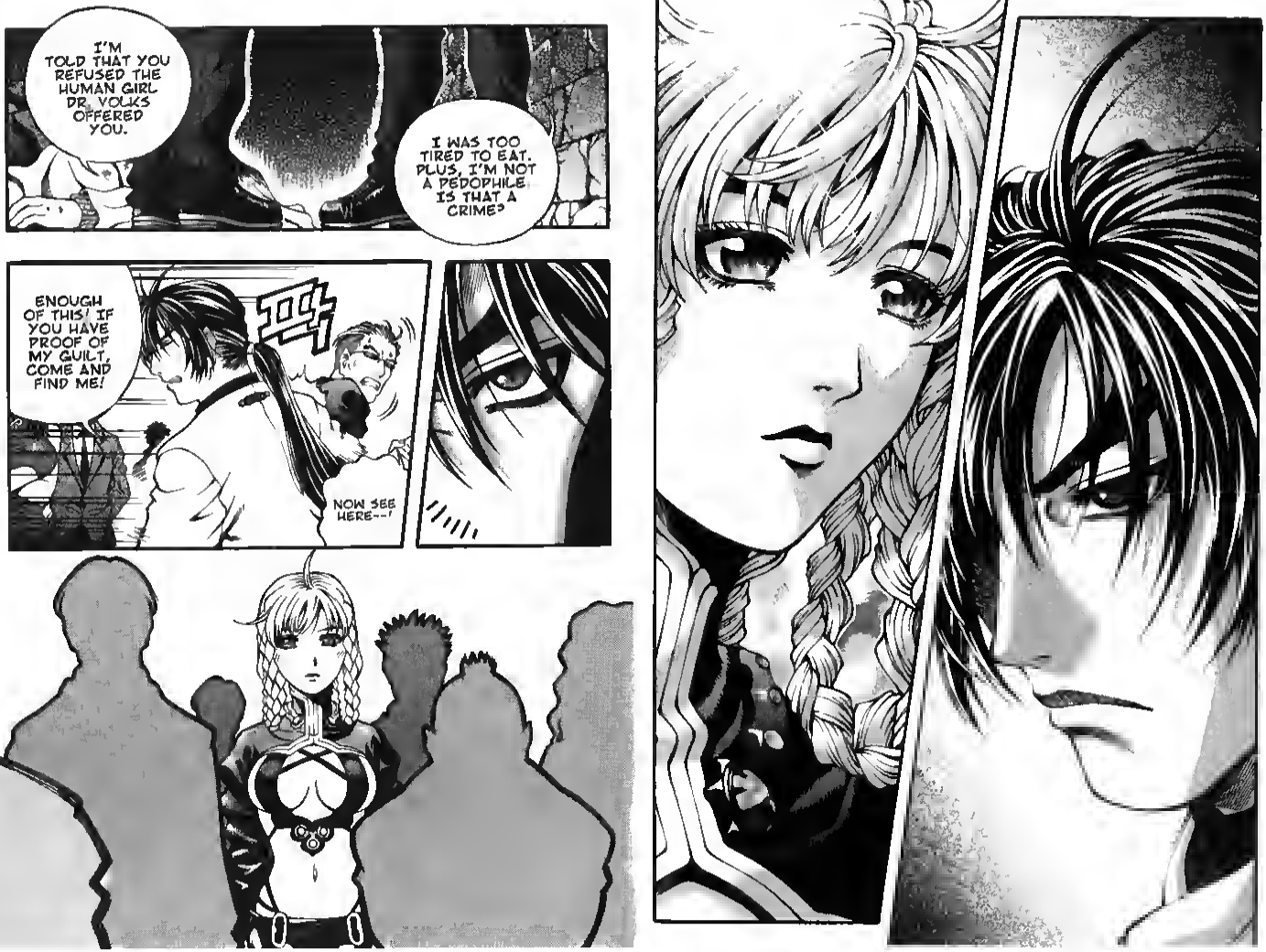

THE BLOOD-BATHS JUST KEEP COMING AS THE FIRST ROUND CONTINUES!
AND WE STILL HAVE A 100% DEATH RATE FOR THE LOSERS! GREAT STUFF!

LISTEN TO THE CROWD ANOTHER BOUT HAS ENDED
YES...

LET'S HURRY ALONG, MILLY YOU'RE ALMOST UP


HM? WHAT IS IT?
OVER THERE...
HUH...?

WHAT ARE THEY ALL LOOKING AT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH! MR GREY!
THERE'S BEEN A MURDER! IT'S VOLKS, THE GENETICIST AND BREEDER!
DAMN! HE WAS A GENIUS! HIS HUMAN'S WERE AS ATTRACTIVE AS THEY WERE DELICIOUS!
THING IS, HIS KILLER WAS A VAMPIRE DRANK HIS BLOOD AND TOOK HIS HEAD SO VOLKS WOULDN'T BECOME A ZOMBIE
SURE, HE WAS HUMAN, BUT HE PROVIDED A SERVICE! WHY KILL HIM?!
PERSONALLY, I THINK THE GUY OVER THERE'S ACTING TOO COOL TO BE INNOCENT
WHO...?
OKAY, MR. RUDBICH?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU ONCE AGAIN...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING THIS AFTERNOON AROUND TWO?
I'VE TOLD YOU..I WAS EXHAUSTED AFTER THE COMPETITION, SO I COLLAPSED IN MY ROOM


I'M TOLD THAT YOU REFUSED THE HUMAN GIRL DR. VOLKS OFFERED YOU.
I WAS TOO TIRED TO EAT. PLUS, I'M NOT A PEDOPHILE. IS THAT A CRIME?
ENOUGH OF THIS! IF YOU HAVE PROOF OF MY GUILT, COME AND FIND ME!
TOCK
NOW SEE HERE--!

Do...

TH

DRRR
DRRR

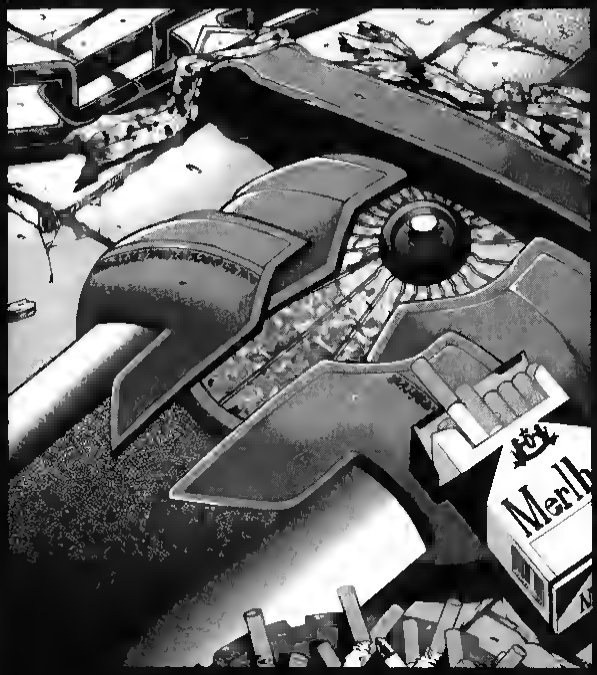
WELL NOW IT SEEMS THAT RUDBICH IS THE PRIME SUSPECT
BUT WHY KILL SUCH A PROMINENT FIGURE?

YOU KNOW SOMETHING! DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, MILLY!
ATTENTION! MILLENEAR SHEPHILD! PLEASE COME TO THE COMBATANTS' PRE-FIGHT AREA

DAMN! WE'RE LATE! LET'S GO!

찰그랑
찰그
쉬익
타닥
타닥
타닥
WELL? GET RID OF THEM. BUT DO IT FAST AND QUIET
CRAP. GOT A PROBLEM. GUARDS AT THE DOOR
LET'S GO, BEKYUN!
슈슈
HUH?
UH URK?!

YIEE!!
WHO THE--?!
ACK!!
STOP RIGHT WHERE--!!
Shut the xxxx up!
HEH HEH. GOOD JOB, KIDS.
THANKS. NOW TELL US WHAT THE HELL WE'RE DOING, DRAISTAIL.
I'M LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DESTROY OUR FRIEND GREY.

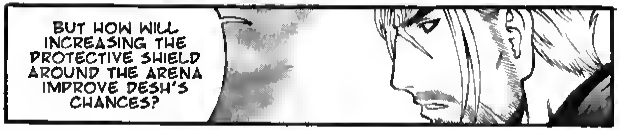


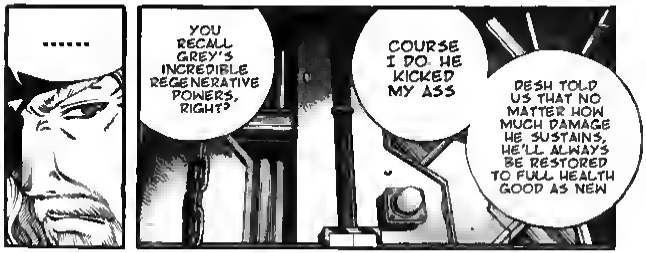
Chapter 62: Dark Angel

HMM... SO THIS OVERBLOWN LASER LIGHTSHOW...

...MIGHT BE ABLE TO FRY GREY'S ASS?
I SURE HOPE SO.
THE DESIGN OF THE DEVICE IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.
IT APPEARS TO BE OF A DEFENSIVE NATURE A MYSTICAL BATTLEMENT, OF SORTS.
THAT MIGHT JUST BE IT!
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT TO BRING YOU TWO DOWN HERE
WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THE FORTRESS. THE V.L.T. ARENA IS DIRECTLY ABOVE US
IT'S THIS DEVICE THAT PREVENTS OUTSIDE FORCES, OR MAGIC, FROM PENETRATING THE SANCTUARY

IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO INCREASE ITS POWER, SAY, TENFOLD—
DESHWITAT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE DOWN GREY ON HIS OWN!
THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOU, BERYUN. YOU'RE THE SPECIALIST IN MYSTICAL PROTECTION AND SEALS
BETWEEN US, WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT

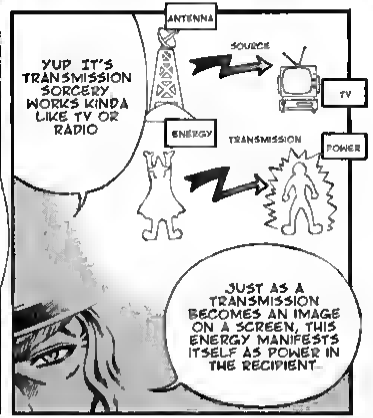

BUT HOW WILL INCREASING THE PROTECTIVE SHIELD AROUND THE ARENA IMPROVE DESH'S CHANCES?

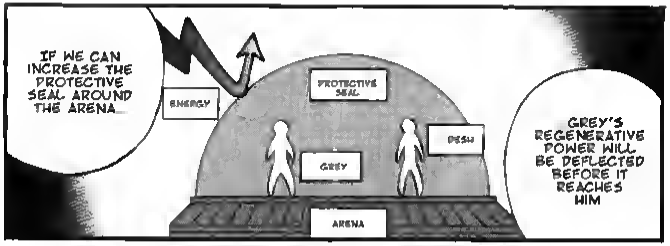

.....
YOU RECALL GREY'S INCREDIBLE REGENERATIVE POWERS, RIGHT?
COURSE I DO. HE KICKED MY ASS
DESH TOLD US THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH DAMAGE HE SUSTAINS, HE'LL ALWAYS BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH GOOD AS NEW

TRUE ENOUGH, RETT GREY'S BODY IS QUITE LITERALLY UNBREAKABLE.
BUT THIS MAGIC IS NOT CONTAINED WITHIN GREY HIMSELF.

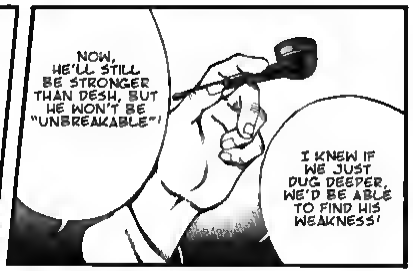
WHAT? YOU MEAN SOMEONE GAVE HIM THE POWER?
NOT EXACTLY. SOMEONE'S GIVING HIM THE POWER.

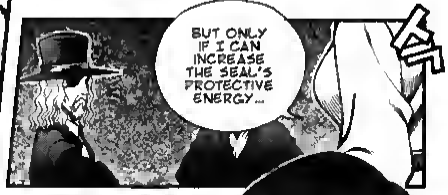
GIVING HIM... FROM A DISTANCE?


YUP. IT'S TRANSMISSION SORCERY. WORKS KINDA LIKE TV OR RADIO
ANTENNA
SOURCE
TV
ENERGY
TRANSMISSION
POWER
JUST AS A TRANSMISSION BECOMES AN IMAGE ON A SCREEN, THIS ENERGY MANIFESTS ITSELF AS POWER IN THE RECIPIENT.


IF WE CAN INCREASE THE PROTECTIVE SEAL AROUND THE ARENA...
ENERGY
PROTECTIVE SEAL
GREY
DESH
ARENA
GREY'S REGENERATIVE POWER WILL BE DEFLECTED BEFORE IT REACHES HIM

SO, AT LEAST IN THE ARENA, HE WON'T HAVE THE POWER TO RECOVER FROM INJURY.

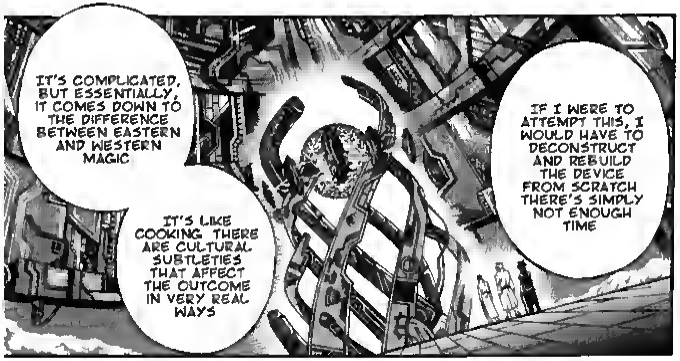

NOW, HE'LL STILL BE STRONGER THAN DESH, BUT HE WON'T BE "UNBREAKABLE"!
I KNEW IF WE JUST DUG DEEPER, WE'D BE ABLE TO FIND HIS WEAKNESS!


BUT ONLY IF I CAN INCREASE THE SEAL'S PROTECTIVE ENERGY...

I'M SORRY I DO NOT BELIEVE I AM CAPABLE OF SUCH A THING

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BERYUN?
YOU WERE TAUGHT THE SECRETS OF PROTECTION SEAL MAGIC BY MASTER TAE HERSELF! AND SHE'S THE VERY BEST!
IT'S JUST A STUPID MACHINE! THIS SHOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR YOU!

IT'S A MATTER OF THE TYPE OF PROTECTION MAGIC, RETT


IT'S COMPLICATED, BUT ESSENTIALLY, IT COMES DOWN TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN MAGIC
IT'S LIKE COOKING. THERE ARE CULTURAL SUBTLETIES THAT AFFECT THE OUTCOME IN VERY REAL WAYS
IF I WERE TO ATTEMPT THIS, I WOULD HAVE TO DECONSTRUCT AND REBUILD THE DEVICE FROM SCRATCH THERE'S SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TIME

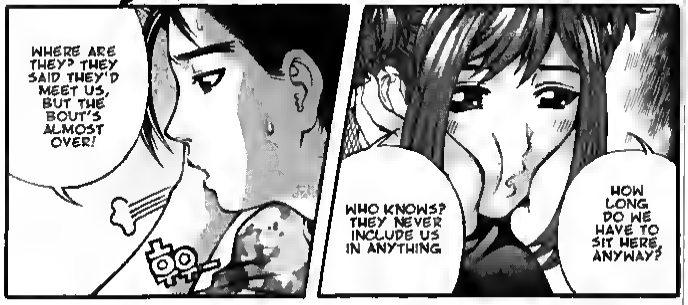
CRUD. I WAS SURE THIS WOULD BE RIGHT UP BERYUN'S ALLEY!

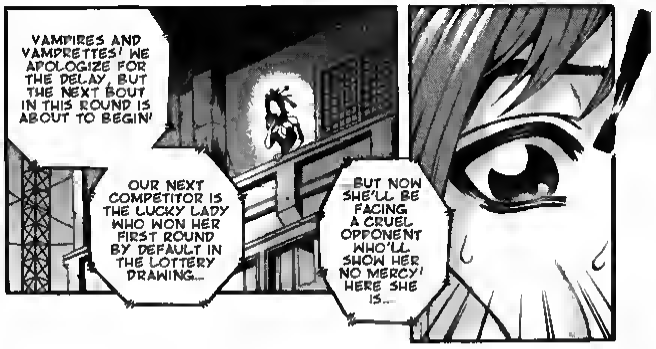
WAIT A MINUTE... WESTERN MAGIC..?

OF COURSE! WE KNOW PEOPLE WHO'VE STUDIED THAT TYPE OF WESTERN MAGIC!
YOU REMEMBER, BERYUN? THOSE EXORCISTS WHO HELPED US OUT AT THE VATICAN!
THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL? WOULD THEY REALLY HELP?
DAMN RIGHT! THEY HELPED US WITH THAT CRAZY BISHOP, DIDN'T THEY?

*U-JAY BACK IN REBIRTH VOLS. 4 & 5—BPC

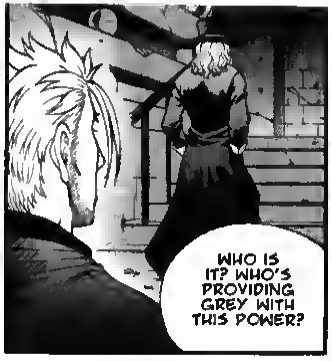
THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL... YES, I'VE HEARD OF THEM! THEY'D BE PERFECT!
BUT HOW WOULD WE GET THEM HERE FROM ROME?
I'LL NEED YOU BOTH TO STAND GUARD HERE AND SENDING EIJI OR REMI IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS...


WHERE ARE THEY? THEY SAID THEY'D MEET US, BUT THE BOUT'S ALMOST OVER!
WHO KNOWS? THEY NEVER INCLUDE US IN ANYTHING
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO SIT HERE, ANYWAY?

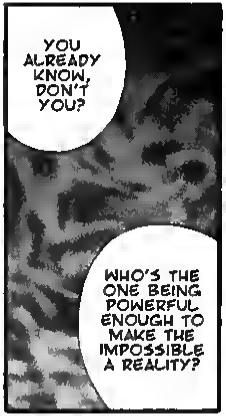

VAMPIRES AND VAMPRETTES! WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY, BUT THE NEXT BOUT IN THIS ROUND IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
OUR NEXT COMPETITOR IS THE LUCKY LADY WHO WON HER FIRST ROUND BY DEFAULT IN THE LOTTERY DRAWING...
...BUT NOW SHE'LL BE FACING A CRUEL OPPONENT WHO'LL SHOW HER NO MERCY! HERE SHE IS...

...THE "DARK ANGEL," MILLENEAR SHEPHILD!!
MI-MILLENEAR...!!
THIS IS UNREAL! FIRST A VAMPIRE-- NOW A FIGHTER IN THE V.L.T.!

DRAISTAIL, I FORGOT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...
YEAH? WHAT'S THAT?


WHO IS IT? WHO'S PROVIDING GREY WITH THIS POWER?

C'MON, RETT...


YOU ALREADY KNOW, DON'T YOU?
WHO'S THE ONE BEING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE A REALITY?

THE GOD OF LIGHT... KALUTIKA MAYBUS!!

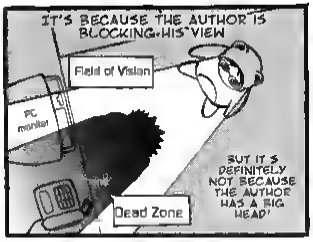
TO BE CONTINUED IN REBIRTH VOLUME 16!

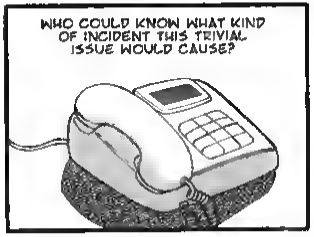
Post-Deadline Account: 98% non-fiction!

WOO'S PARTING SHOTS--- SPECIAL EDITION!

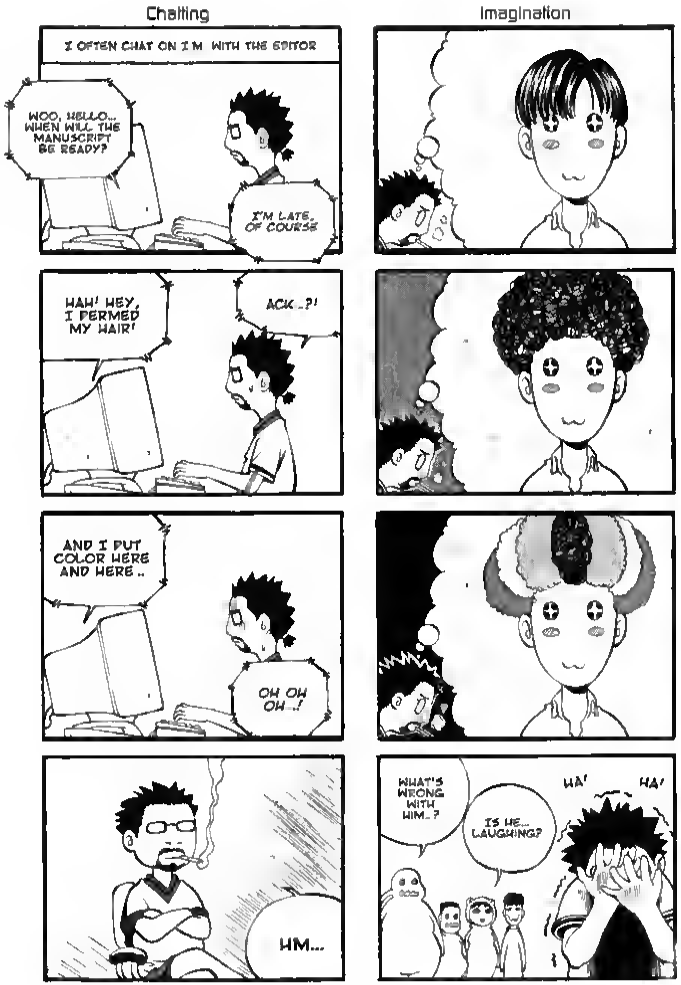
WELCOME TO THE CRAZY WORLD OF WOO!

Seed of Disaster


IT'S BECAUSE THE AUTHOR IS BLOCKING HIS VIEW
Field of Vision
PC monitor
Dead Zone
BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT BECAUSE THE AUTHOR HAS A BIG HEAD!



Weird Phone Call
Ring!!
Daiwon C.I
YES, THIS IS COMIC CHAMP'S EDITING DEPARTMENT...
HELLO.. WOW! IS THIS THE NEW EROTIC VIDEO?!
...WHO WAS THAT?
SOME PERVERT
Pervert's True Identity
YEAH, YEAH...NOW THAT'S A BODY TYPE I CAN USE..
AFTER ALL, THIS IS ALL STRICTLY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES...
WHO IS HE TRYING TO FOOL?
AHH! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! I NEED TO CALL EDITORIAL FOR A SCHEDULING MEETING!
HUH?
HELLO...?
WOW! IS THIS THE NEW EROTIC VIDEO?
OOPS...
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR THE LADY WHOSE NAME I DO NOT KNOW THAT ANSWERED THE PHONE.
Accident?
THE EDITOR CAME TO PICK UP THE MANUSCRIPT HIMSELF BECAUSE I WAS SO LATE
HERE...WE FINISHED THE 11 PAGES!
WOW! GOOD WORK!
WELL, GET THE REST OF THE MANUSCRIPT TO ME SOON AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
OKAY?
퍽
IT WAS PROBABLY A MISTAKE.
IS IT BECAUSE I WAS LATE?
MY HURTS...!
WAS IT A MISTAKE?
WAS IT ON PURPOSE?!
WILL I LOSE MY JOB?!
SEE YA!
Et tu, Brutus?
POOR GUY'S WORKING SO HARD I SHOULD GIVE HIM SOME ENCOURAGEMENT!
WOO'S ASSISTANT
GREAT JOB! BUT YOU MIGHT WANNA TRY..
YES...?
HYAIEE!
퍽
AH..!
YOU...YOU, TOO?! ARE YOU OUT TO GET ME ALSO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



Preview: Vol. 16

The Vampire Lord Tournament continues, and Millenear takes on her first opponent! The outcome is anyone's guess, especially when Millenear employs an incredibly dangerous technique during the bout! Also on the card is the odds-on-favorite, Mr. Grey, and Desh continues to work his way through the ranks of the competition. Meanwhile, Draistail, Rett and the crew reconnect with an unlikely group of allies—The Order of St. Michael!

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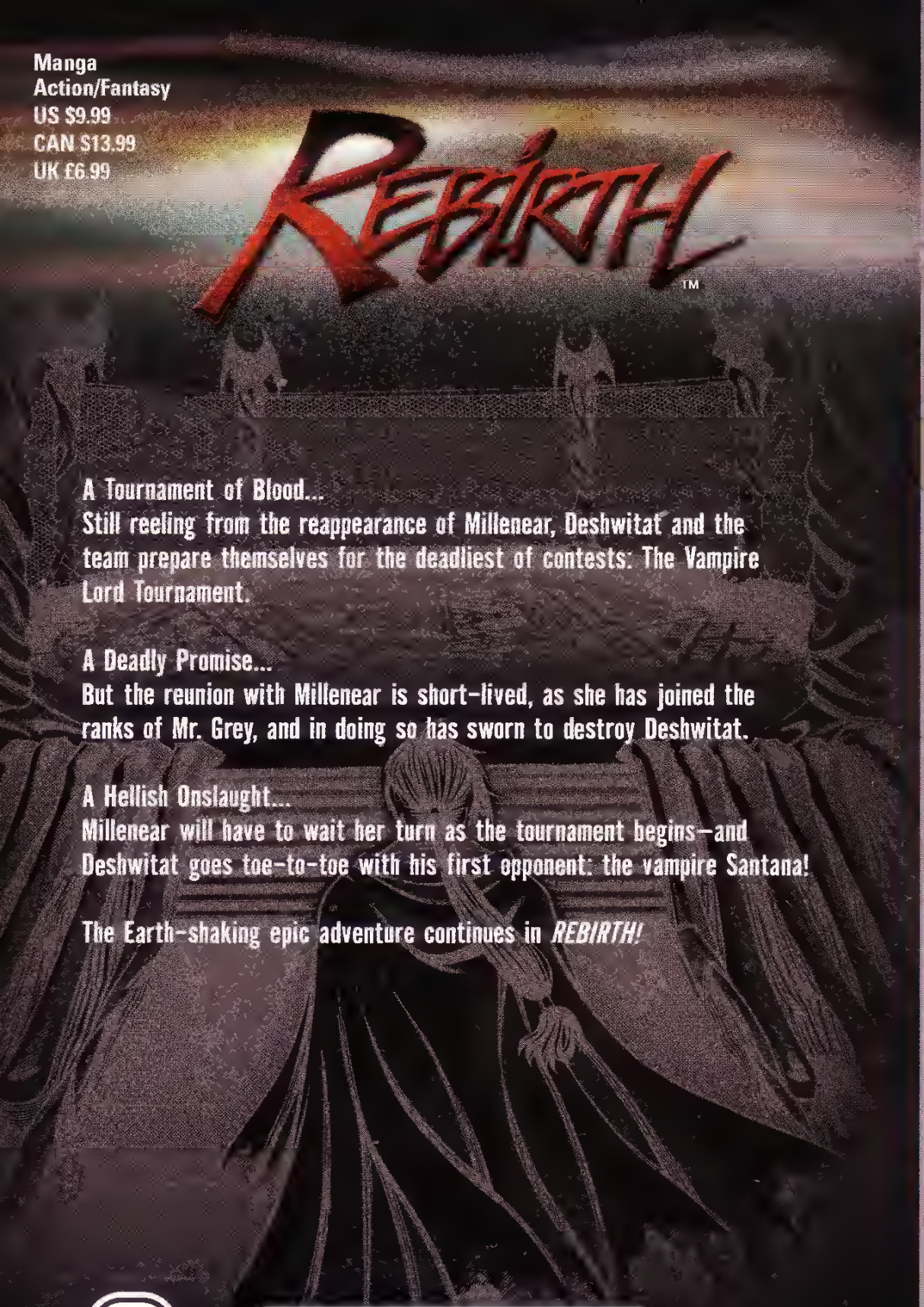
REBIRTH™



A Tournament of Blood...
Still reeling from the reappearance of Millenear, Deshwitat and the team prepare themselves for the deadliest of contests: The Vampire Lord Tournament.

A Deadly Promise...
But the reunion with Millenear is short-lived, as she has joined the ranks of Mr. Grey, and in doing so has sworn to destroy Deshwitat.

A Hellish Onslaught...
Millenear will have to wait her turn as the tournament begins—and Deshwitat goes toe-to-toe with his first opponent: the vampire Santana!

The Earth-shaking epic adventure continues in *REBIRTH!*

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